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HOW FRANCIS BLOMEFIELD BECAME THE HISTORIAN OF NORFOLK.

Background

For two decades Francis Blomefield compiled and published the fascicles of what might have been the greatest, and most comprehensive topographical history of any English county,¹ but he was still a long way from achieving his object when, in January 1752 at the age of forty-seven, he died of smallpox. By then he had completed work on ten of the thirty Norfolk hundreds and two of the four main boroughs. The history of Norfolk was subsequently completed in a less thorough manner than Blomefield would have wished, but this does not lessen his achievement, nor make it any less remarkable that a project of this scale should have been initiated and undertaken at this time by an unknown country clergyman. The story of just how it was that Blomefield came to be the historian of Norfolk is a complex one in which the co-incidence of a number of unrelated events played an important part.

Unlike the major early county historians, Blomefield was a man of no great position in his native county. Carew, Burton, Thoroton, Chauncy, and Atkyns had all been established and wealthy members of the gentry in their localities, whereas Blomefield remained essentially the rector of a small and obscure country parish. The Blomefields had been natives of Fersfield in South Norfolk for at least a century and a half before the birth of Francis in 1705,² and appear to have been successful farmers and landowners on a modest scale. During this period their standing gradually increased from yeomen to minor gentry, but there were no connections with the nobility and the family was never entitled to bear a coat of arms.³

The historian's father, Henry Blomefield, was the only surviving son of John Blomefield, yeoman. A judicious marriage to Alice Batch of Kings Lynn had added to his small estate and provided him with a sufficient income to bring up a family secure from want. He was however ambitious, both to increase his family income by buying more land, and to raise their social status. He determined to provide Francis, his first son, with the education and occupation befitting a gentleman of limited means, and so in 1708 he purchased the next presentation to the rectory of Fersfield, which living was to be accompanied by a modest landholding (settled initially on his wife, and only at her decease on the young man).⁴

The education of Francis for the cloth began at nearby Diss, with his attending classes run by the local rector, John Briars. At about the age of nine he was sent to the better established Grammar School in Thetford, where he remained for ten years under the tuition of the Reverend John Price. From Thetford, he was

admitted sizar to Caius College Cambridge in April 1724, at a time when standards at the University were particularly poor.⁵ In spite of this, the young man was fortunate in having an exceptional tutor, James Burrough, who encouraged his taste for scholarship and introduced him to the more scholarly members of the University. Francis took his B.A. in 1727 and qualified for his M.A. in the following year. In March 1727/8 he was duly ordained deacon, and sought temporary clerical appointments until such time as he might succeed to the Fersfield living. Initially he was appointed curate to a family friend, James Baldwin, rector of Quidenham. In July 1729 he was ordained priest and instituted into the rectory of Hargham which he held for six months until another family friend, John Hare, could take up office.⁶ Before this period had elapsed, the plan made by Henry Blomefield in 1708 came to fruition following the death of John Barker, rector of Fersfield, in September 1729.⁷

Henry and Alice Blomefield therefore had the satisfaction of seeing their son as rector of their village at an early age. The purchase of the living had, however, placed a heavy burden on the family and involved it in debts which would take some time to re-pay. Alice Blomefield died shortly after her son's institution and was buried by him 19th March 1729/30.⁸ Henry lived for a further two years when he unexpectedly succumbed to small-pox, before he had the opportunity to make good the depleted family finances. At his death in May 1732 he owed considerable sums on land as well as £300 borrowed for his son's education and living.⁹ The estate was well able to meet these debts but it would have left inadequate provision for the younger children, particularly as a significant part of what remained was already guaranteed to Francis under the terms of the marriage settlement.

Henry Blomefield had to consider a further four children; his daughters Elizabeth and Hester and his younger sons Peter and John. The daughters were twenty-four and eighteen years old respectively and in need of a dowry. The sons were seventeen and sixteen years old and would soon have equal need for finance or for land to be able to support themselves. The father was therefore forced to require, in his will, that Francis should take on some of these debts in order to protect the interests of his other children. The estate was capable of paying these debts in time but as a result Francis Blomefield's legacy fell short of the original fairly modest aspirations of his father. The twenty-six year old rector was left with a relatively poor living and some lands in the parish, but at the same time he was saddled with liabilities. He was by no means a poor man and had the resources to live a quiet and comfortable life if he chose, but at the same time he could not have been described as a rich man. Thus Blomefield's background and financial position made him an unlikely candidate to devote his life to the history of his native county. However he did benefit from a profound interest in, and aptitude for, the study of antiquities which had been fostered by his tutors.

The young historian

A fascination with the past was perhaps first transmitted to the young Francis by his Thetford schoolmaster John Price. At about the age of fourteen, Blomefield began to visit local churches to make notes on their fabrics, and record monumental inscriptions in the fashion of John Weever.¹⁰ By 1720 he was using any opportunity for these visits, and he also began to record his activities and expenses, so that by 1733 he had spent £175-16s-0d over thirteen years on travelling, stationery, and the purchase of manuscripts.¹¹ Blomefield's note to this effect in his *Journal and letter-book* does not indicate that he was planning a history of Norfolk from the age of fifteen, as these early notes were not limited to the one county. For example, he visited Bardwell church near Bury St Edmunds in March 1719/20 and spent several days on the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire borders in February 1724.¹² Inevitably, with limited means he was making no systematic survey but combining his interest with any opportunities for travel which presented themselves.

If removal to Cambridge University reduced the opportunities for visits to Norfolk and Suffolk churches, it also enlarged his horizons to the antiquities of a third county, and introduced him to the use of historical manuscripts and to individuals with like interests. One result of the poor tuition and lax discipline at the University was that the students had time for any interest or dissipation they might choose to follow. In the case of Blomefield, the young man's antiquarian instincts, the beneficial guidance of his tutor, or merely his lack of funds, led him to pursue his antiquarian hobbies visiting local churches,¹³ rather than any less reputable pastime. Now working from a base at the centre of a small county, he was able to do this more thoroughly and systematically in Cambridgeshire than was possible for him in Norfolk and Suffolk.

During vacations he was able to continue his antiquarian visits to towns and villages in Norfolk and Suffolk as far apart as Newmarket, Norwich, and Yarmouth. One of his most noteworthy tours encompassed visits to Yarmouth, Gorleston, Lowestoft and the Roman station of Gariononum at Burgh Castle.¹⁴ On the way he stopped to make notes in the churches of a host of villages on either side of the county boundary in the area known as Lothingland. Thus the evidence from his years at Cambridge shows that he was maintaining a parallel interest in the antiquities of Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire, although inevitably he had more opportunity to make collections for the latter. Blomefield also spent much time in his college library, reading widely and making lengthy transcripts from historical manuscripts.¹⁵ At the same time he began to seek out family friends and neighbours with ancient records or deeds and made transcripts during his vacations.¹⁶ Simultaneously he was beginning to produce his first substantial pieces of written work, such as a sixty-page epitome of heraldry and account of the armigerous families of Suffolk, compiled in 1726.¹⁷ A developing confidence in his own skills as a historian is shown by two further pieces of work; an essay

refuting Nathaniel Salmon's account of the Roman stations of East Anglia, and critical notes on Cox's *Norfolcia Antiqua et nova*.¹⁸

Contemporary Antiquarian Society

At Cambridge the young Blomefield was also introduced to a number of like-minded men who were to assist him later. His tutor, James Burrough, was one such; others included Charles Barnwell, John Dawney, and Beaupre Bell, each of whom was later to provide material for the history of Norfolk. But the most important of his new acquaintances was a young attorney from Palgrave in Suffolk named Thomas Martin, the cousin of his tutor and a frequent visitor to Caius College.¹⁹ Blomefield and Martin differed in background and temperament, but also had much in common and were to become comparative neighbours as Palgrave was only six miles from Fersfield. Both men had attended the same school in Thetford, although lack of funds had forced Martin to leave and follow a career before Blomefield arrived. Above all, they shared an interest in antiquities of all kinds which was the basis of a lasting friendship of crucial importance in Blomefield's subsequent career.

Thomas Martin was a knowledgeable, intemperate, and good humoured man who lacked the means to devote his life to scholarship and the application to be successful in his career. His interest in the past was obsessional and included a magpie-like preoccupation with collecting historical relics, including books, documents, paintings, coins, and any kind of artefact with historical associations. It was an undirected fascination which provided him with an enormous working knowledge of antiquities and brought him the respect of many contemporary historians, but disabled him from any limited field of study.²⁰ However to a young student interested in antiquities, the friendship of a man such as Martin was a great asset, both for the sake of his knowledge and sizeable collections, and also because he had a wide circle of friends and acquaintances amongst the foremost historians of his day.

Inevitably, Blomefield's return to Norfolk society in 1728 tended to reinforce his interest in this county, particularly as he was now accepted into a circle containing several notable antiquaries. His friendship with Thomas Martin, Beaupre Bell, and with his rector James Baldwin brought him into contact with a number of other useful people including two men who would also later play an important role in his work, Thomas Tanner the chancellor of the diocese of Norwich, and Charles Parkin the rector of Oxborough. Tanner was a historical scholar of the highest standing as well as an important church dignitary. He had once considered compiling a history of his native Wiltshire but his career had rather taken him to Norwich;²¹ he was therefore well disposed to any similar scheme for Norfolk. Parkin on the other hand was a man of similar antiquarian interests but more modest ambitions; for some time he had been engaged on compiling a history of Fincham deanery in the west of the county.²²

The years between 1729 and 1731 were important in the development of Francis Blomefield as a historian, but he was making no conscious preparations for his great work. By the time he left university he had acquired the interest and expertise to enable him to undertake historical writing. He had also accumulated a fund of notes (most of which were descriptions of churches and their monuments) for Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire. Whilst he hoped to publish some of these, it was not as part of a full topographical history on the lines of Dugdale's *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, the model for all such works. Blomefield's correspondence after he left university indicates that he was hoping to publish a study of Cambridgeshire monumental inscriptions, and until late 1731 his collections for Norfolk were only of secondary interest.²³ But these plans did not come to fruition at this stage. The difficulty of completing his collections from Norfolk coupled with his newly acquired parochial duties, and perhaps a re-awakened interest in his home county, eventually caused him to postpone further work. However the project was never completely forgotten and in 1751, shortly before his death, these notes were eventually published as *Collectanea Cantabrigiensia*.²⁴

Family matters

There were other matters on Blomefield's mind in 1732. Following the death of his father he had means to support a family of his own, and in September of that year he married Mary, the daughter of Laurence Womack, rector of Caister by Yarmouth. The Womack family had strong associations with Fersfield, having been rectors of the parish from 1595 to 1685. They also had very close ties with the Blomefield family for both Francis and his younger brother Peter married daughters of the family, and a cousin, Sarah Blomefield of Tibbenham, married a son.²⁵ Married life settled the future historian and relieved him from some of his domestic burdens. The dowry brought by his wife was also a welcome addition to the family finances.

It was some time after his return from Cambridge, and probably as late as 1732, before the idea of a full-dress topographical history of Norfolk was formed. Before he could even consider such a task Blomefield required three things; independent means to support himself whilst undertaking the work, sufficient free time for its completion, and access to the required source materials. Although his means were not very great, Blomefield did achieve a measure of independence on his father's death in May 1732. Having now a settled domestic life he had also the necessary leisure for his task, as his parochial duties were never onerous.²⁶

Thus the death of his father and his subsequent marriage may be seen as incidents which indirectly contributed to the transformation of Francis from the young cleric with antiquarian leanings of 1731, into the man who was publishing proposals for an enormously detailed work of historical scholarship in 1733. But by far the most important factor in the genesis of this scheme arose almost accidentally when the

young Blomefield was given access to, and encouragement to use, the Le Neve collection for the the history of Norfolk.

The Le Neve Collection

Peter Le Neve had intended to write the topographical history of Norfolk and had devoted the greater part of his life to collecting materials.²⁷ In some respects he was well suited for such a task and was able to spend years systematically searching for, and indexing, Norfolk references in the major series of public record. As Norroy King of Arms he also had access to the genealogical and heraldic manuscripts of the College of Arms. However, in spite of his enormous scholarship and capacity for study, he was also temperamentally unsuited to compile and write up a historical account in the same way as his young friend Thomas Martin. Le Neve published nothing during his lifetime and left no literary work more substantial than a translation of Camden's account of Norfolk incorporating his own additions and corrections. His obsession with collecting as much material as possible meant that at the time of his death in 1729 he had built up what was described as 'the greatest fund of antiquities for his native county that ever was collected for any single one in the kingdom'.²⁸

Le Neve's Norfolk collections fell into three broad categories; original historical documents and records, a series of calendars and indexes to the public records, and a massive jumble of miscellaneous information on tiny slips or scraps of paper, compiled from a vast array of sources by many different hands. The original records included cartularies from many of the main Norfolk and Suffolk religious houses which were of crucial importance in identifying monastic lands and other interests in the counties. Le Neve had also collected many of the records from defunct manorial courts, deeds, feodaries and other mediaeval documents.

The calendars and indexes to Norfolk references in the public records from Domesday to the late mediaeval period represented the single most valuable series of documents in the collection. Working at a time when the originals were neither adequately housed nor easily accessible to historians, Le Neve had managed to index all of the main categories, and provided his successors with an incomparable fund of material. At the same time he had compiled an enormous dictionary of the arms of Norfolk gentry and transcribed and annotated the two heraldic visitations of the county in 1563 and 1664. In all such work Le Neve was both accurate and orderly, in many cases re-arranging the information into a form useful to a county historian, such as his transcript of the Domesday entries in geographical order. Yet by far the largest part of this collection was anything but orderly or easy to use. It consisted of tens of thousands of tiny scraps of paper on which were written pieces of information together with a single word key to the place represented. Some of these slips were written by Le Neve or his amanuensis, but most were made up of the dissected notes of earlier antiquaries and similarly mutilated documents such as letters and accounts. Several historical collections by others

which had been acquired by Le Neve during his lifetime had been cut up in the interests of this crude filing system, making them impossible to trace. In his later years, Le Neve had found himself to be the centre of a circle of younger antiquaries such as John Kirkpatrick, Benjamin Mackerell, Thomas Tanner and Thomas Martin, with whom he regularly corresponded and exchanged notes, and whose handwriting frequently appears among the slips.

Quite unexpectedly, and not strictly in accordance with Le Neve's will, all these materials were made readily available to Blomefield by Thomas Martin, one of the executors. The young man was therefore encouraged to attempt what Le Neve could not have done, to use them to compile a coherent history of the county, whilst at the same time taking steps to fill any gaps and incorporate relevant contemporary information. The opportunity to use this incomparable collection came at exactly the right time for Blomefield, and enabled him to conceive a major project, one which completely overtook any tentative plans he may have had for his own account of Norfolk antiquities.

Peter Le Neve left an imperfect will.²⁹ He wanted his vast collections of Norfolk materials (and a smaller one relating to Suffolk) to be kept together for public use in some suitable repository in Norwich. The remainder of his literary and historical collections were to be disposed of in accordance with a note to be found in his writing desk after his decease. The executors were his two antiquarian friends Thomas Martin and Thomas Tanner, and the principal legatee was his second wife Prudence, whom he had married in 1727 and who was many years his junior. Tanner, as the chancellor of Norwich Diocese, naturally interpreted Le Neve's intention as being that the collections should be deposited with the Cathedral muniments, but Martin and Prudence Le Neve did not agree. The problem was therefore shelved pending the disposal of the remaining literary and historical materials which were found to have been left to a distant relative in London, who promptly arranged to sell them by auction during the winter of 1730/1.³⁰

Before and after the sale, Martin spent a lot of time at his late friend's house in Great Witchingham examining and sorting the collections and otherwise arranging to carry out the terms of the will,³¹ though by the autumn of 1731 the executors had still made no satisfactory decision about the fate of the Norfolk and Suffolk collections. Within a few months, however, this situation changed radically. In November Thomas Martin's wife, Sarah, died giving birth to twins, leaving him the care of eight young children. In December, Tanner heard that he was to be elevated to the see of St Asaph and had quickly to wind up his affairs in Norfolk prior to his consecration at Lambeth on 23 January 1731/2:³² thereafter he was never able to return to his adopted county. In the same month of January the marriage of Thomas Martin and Prudence Le Neve not only solved the domestic problems of the former but had the added virtue of temporarily resolving the custody of the Norfolk and Suffolk manuscripts. After a short period the couple moved to Martin's house at Palgrave, taking with them the enormous manuscript

collections, until such time as the question of their future custody could be resolved. Quite unexpectedly, therefore, the raw materials for the history of Norfolk were moved within easy reach of Blomefield.

Bishop Tanner was far from happy about the irregular way in which Le Neve's collections were taken to Palgrave but he was not in a position to do anything unless he was willing to risk the cost of a Chancery suit against his co-executor, and the principal legatee. More than once he wrote to Martin requesting that they should meet in London to discuss the matter, and Martin implied that he would talk his wife into accepting his interpretation of the will.³³ However, partly as a result of Tanner's subsequent ill-health, Martin succeeded in delaying and ultimately avoiding any such meeting. Tanner's conscience was eased a little after 1733 when he found that Martin was making the collections freely available for Blomefield's use,³⁴ although he was never completely reconciled to the situation up to his death in 1735. Thereafter, with no individual having any claim on the ownership of the remaining Le Neve materials, they were gradually amalgamated into Martin's collection and all thought of their being housed in a public repository was forgotten.

In 1732 Francis Blomefield would have seemed an unlikely successor to the great county historians of the seventeenth century. He lacked the means to finance such a publication, and his main source of income tied him to a remote country parish for the greater part of each year. He also had no great influence which might procure for him the support of the county aristocracy. On the other hand his background and interests had given him the experience in the use of historical materials which he needed and brought him into contact with a number of helpful and intelligent individuals. But all these factors were of little significance when compared with his one newly acquired advantage - access to the Le Neve collections for Norfolk. Much of the preparatory work of gathering materials for a history of the county had been completed by Le Neve, particularly from those sources which would have been least accessible to a country clergyman.

Blomefield had only to sort the various categories of information and to supplement them from other sources before compiling his narrative. However, due to the size of the county, the complexity of its manorial history, and the enormous range of documentation available, this was no mean task for Blomefield, and one which had certainly been beyond the powers of Peter Le Neve.

Planning and writing the history

The planned history

Writing to Thomas Tanner in April 1735, Blomefield expressed the desire that his forthcoming book should be 'a fitt size to joint with Chauncy & other authors of the same kind'.¹ He therefore took Chauncy and the other great contemporary county histories of Dugdale and Thoroton as the standards which he would seek to emulate in size and workmanship. He did not however appreciate that the task he was setting himself was more complex than that facing any of his distinguished

predecessors. The area of Norfolk is well over three times that of Hertfordshire and more than double that of either Warwickshire or Nottinghamshire. Norfolk had been both rich and densely populated, boasting the second largest city in England, two major sea ports and more sizeable market towns than were found in most other counties. It also had a more complex manorial system, frequently with a number of manors within any given parish. Thus it would not have been possible to compile a history of the county which was as comprehensive as the earlier classic histories and yet was on a comparable scale.

When he took up the mantle of Peter Le Neve in 1732, Blomefield knew what was expected of a county historian and where he would find most of his materials.

Although he had comparatively little experience of historical writing, he understood the conventions and the traditional framework for a topographical history that had grown up since the time of Dugdale. He also had the benefit of several years' experience collecting materials for the hundred of Diss and the surrounding area, and to this end he had already consulted the Le Neve papers. However, at the beginning Blomefield underestimated the scale and complexity of his task and the difficulties he was likely to encounter. Many of the decisions affecting the layout, order, and content of the history were made hastily and later needed revision. Even when he eventually began to publish three and a half years later, he still had not come to grips with some of the fundamental problems relating to the prosecution of his work. Perhaps he devoted too much time to finding the financial support and writing up the area he knew well, but throughout this period he made no attempt to devise a plan for covering the whole county, or seriously to work out the order in which he would cover the ground. As a result he set himself unrealistically high standards for the earliest hundreds and formed no idea of the true scale of the projected history.

Nevertheless, in the summer of 1733 the historian published proposals which purported to set out a plan, stating the size, indicating the price and determining the publication schedule for the work. They were produced in order to make potential readers aware of the project and procure the necessary subscriptions.² The fact that they subsequently turned out to be wildly wrong in almost every particular is not however an indication of any intention to mislead so much as a demonstration of Blomefield's inability to make the necessary forecasts about his book.

The mode of publication

Blomefield never attempted to find a patron to give financial support to the publication of his work. He assumed that he would have to bear any financial risk involved in the project. He was not able to pay a printer's bill for a complete edition of a fairly extensive work, particularly as this would be before the receipts were collected from sales. He had no desire to print more copies than would gain a ready sale, but he had no idea of the potential market for his work. Finally Blomefield wished to begin publication as soon as possible, when he had completed only a small section of the text. This was partly due to his natural

impatience but was also to help him gain access to additional material. For his own immediate locality and a few other areas, he was able to fill the gaps in the Le Neve collection from information supplied by friends and neighbours, but he lacked any such influence or reputation in the greater part of the county. He therefore reasoned

by this means gentlemen of the county will see what is going forward and be judges for themselves and so favour me with any things as deeds, evidences, at any time which could not have been if it had been published at once.³

The problems of guaranteeing financial support for the publication while he was unable to measure the potential demand, together with the need to publicise the project, caused the author to adopt two publishing practices. He decided not to publish a given number but would rather issue proposals and solicit subscriptions before the work went to the press. Moreover he decided to adopt the method of serial publication, with his work appearing in a number of parts over a period of years.

The practice of asking for subscriptions to a book prior to printing was an accepted custom by Blomefield's time.⁴ By this means the publisher of any substantial book was able to test the market and ensure a sufficient demand before committing himself to produce a specific number, or any edition at all. The publisher would distribute proposals describing the work, and its author, and potential customers were asked to forward their names. If the book was to be published as a whole, usually subscribers were asked for a proportion of the purchase price at the time of subscribing. The money collected acted as a deposit, and was a useful source of finance to offset part of the cost of printing. In a work of scholarship this method had the added attraction of enabling subscribers to be listed within the work, as patrons of learning.

Unfortunately any practice involving the payment of money in advance was open to abuse, and the book buying public was becoming suspicious of subscription publishing. Occasionally works never appeared and deposits were lost, but more often they did not come up to the expectations of their subscribers, were abridged, or were produced only after long delays. A common sharp practice was the use of subscription orders to cover the cost of printing a larger number of copies than subscriptions received. These extra copies could then be sold off at a reduced price providing additional profit for the publisher without involving him in any risk. Blomefield wished to guard against any dishonesty or sharp practice towards his potential subscribers, and therefore refrained from asking for money before he had anything to offer. He rather solved his financial difficulties by printing and selling the book in parts published regularly over a period.

The practice of serial, or part, publication was also a development of the seventeenth century which was still very popular during the early years of the eighteenth.⁵ Serial publication need not involve pre-payment of part of the cost and as the potential buyer had only to pay small sums over a long period he was encouraged to purchase more expensive productions than he might otherwise

consider. The publisher was able to finance lengthy works without raising enough to pay for the production in advance of receipts. As far as Blomefield was concerned, this method also had the advantage that he was not forced to specify the total cost before the length was determined; he need only fix a price for each part. It appeared therefore that these two publishing techniques would answer all the problems relating to the financing of the work.

Serial publishing was not universally popular with the book buying public,⁶ and also had several disadvantages for the publisher which were not understood by Blomefield until he had started publishing; by then it was too late to alter his plan. Subscribers might change their minds, or die during the course of publication, and inevitably the work was more costly to produce and sell in this manner.

Blomefield based his price too much on the cost of production without realising that serial publication would greatly increase the cost and trouble of distribution, and therefore ultimately undermined the work.

The Proposals

The publication of proposals on 23 June 1733 symbolised the decision to proceed with the project.⁷ Three days later, Blomefield sent a number of manuscript copies to friends, optimistically hoping to have a sufficient number of subscriptions to begin printing at Lady Day 1734.⁸ He also sent a copy to his Norwich stationer with instructions for them to be printed.⁹ They show that Blomefield expected his history of Norfolk to fill two large quarto volumes, each of about 770 pages; the parts would appear at monthly intervals over two years, each consisting of eight sheets costing one shilling, which the author considered to be a fair price for this quantity of printed matter.

The printed proposals had to be distributed as widely as possible, and to this end Blomefield made use of both book trade channels and his acquaintances in East Anglia. During the summer and autumn of 1733 numbered copies of the proposals were sent to booksellers in each major East Anglian town with a request that they collect subscriptions in return for a fixed allowance on each number sold. Twenty-four numbered copies were sent, for example, to the Cambridge bookseller William Thurlbourn, with a note asking for him to arrange for their distribution among the undergraduates of each college, to his friends and his customers.¹⁰

Simultaneously Blomefield was using his own contacts in the university to distribute copies to the fellows. Two further unnumbered copies were also sent to Thurlbourn to be pasted up as advertisements in public places in the university. In Norwich, Blomefield's regular stationer, James Carlos, was requested to arrange for the distribution of some copies to his London agents, the booksellers Arthur Bettesworth and C. Hitch.¹¹ By the end of November the author was reporting to Thomas Tanner that he already had 'a good number of subscribers', and throughout the following year subscriptions continued to be received at a satisfactory rate.¹²

The author also began to realise his hopes for additional material.

Blomefield's collaborator

At a very early stage Blomefield recruited a willing and useful collaborator, Charles Parkin, rector of Oxborough. Shortly after he formulated his plans for a county history he persuaded Parkin to combine his own local historical work with the larger project, and it was later agreed that the older man would take over responsibility for the three large (albeit thinly populated) hundreds of Grimeshoe, South Greenhoe, and Clacklose.¹³ Blomefield therefore made available to him the relevant materials from his own and Le Neve's collections, and the two men worked together on the collation of the various diocesan registers. The bulk of the work for these areas, however, fell on Charles Parkin, and for the most part he worked quite independently of Blomefield.

The first indication of this collaboration comes in a letter from Blomefield in June 1733, enclosing a manuscript copy of his proposals, and assuming that Parkin would wish to assist with the project.¹⁴ At that time Blomefield considered himself to be the better prepared, and offered to begin publication with Diss Hundred and then work eastwards towards Yarmouth in order to give Parkin as much time as possible to prepare the western hundreds. In the event, Blomefield worked westwards from Diss through Giltcross and Shropham to Thetford, as this was the area he knew best and for which he had most material. Parkin's first hundred, Grimeshoe, was therefore included after Thetford, comparatively early in the plan. Its availability in 1736 undoubtedly saved Blomefield from holding up production for want of text, for the publication of monthly numbers soon began to outstrip his ability to write up new material.

During the summer of 1733 Blomefield began perfecting his text for Diss and Giltcross whilst Parkin was working on Grimeshoe. In November Blomefield informed Tanner that he had completed Diss and as late as December he was still confidently predicting a two-year publication schedule for the whole work, beginning the following March.¹⁵ This was a ludicrous forecast for although he had these hundreds in hand and possibly had detailed notes for two more, he had taken virtually no steps to gather additional material for the remainder of the county. He did not even begin to make enquiries after a printer or the costs of production until March 1734, and the reply he received was the last item which Blomefield recorded in his letter book for nine months.¹⁶ In the next recorded letter, the date for publication was put back by more than a year to May 1735.¹⁷ During the course of 1734 Blomefield's conception of the project changed quite radically. He had begun to realise that he would need much more preparation, and he had to collect additional materials for the north and east of the county. As a result, the date fixed for the commencement of publication was further postponed to the autumn of 1735 and then again to the spring of 1736, giving the author the benefit of an additional two years on his original starting date. This put him in a better position to perform his task but even so his planning was still totally inadequate.

Early experience using the Le Neve papers for Diss and Giltcross should have demonstrated where it was necessary to supplement the material. The main areas

of weakness were in details of contemporary land ownership, the names of incumbents and their patrons, and descriptions of church fabrics and monuments. The collection of such information for the majority of parishes, where he had no notes, presented a formidable problem. He gained some assistance from friends in different parts of the county, and following publication of his proposals, from a number of landowners and incumbents who held ancient documents. However this help gave only partial coverage. In the spring of 1734, the proposals for the work had been widely published and much of the so-called 'planning' for the project was complete and yet the author had made no assessment of how much additional material would be required.

Collecting material

During the years 1734 and 1735 therefore, Blomefield at last began to face up to the task of collecting further information and devoted a great deal of time and effort to it. At first he lacked the reputation to secure the trust and co-operation of the land-owning gentry in much of the county, who might otherwise provide invaluable material from their deed boxes. He also perhaps lacked a sufficiently detailed local knowledge to interpret and collate the materials he had found with ease. Although friends such as Thomas Martin or James Baldwin might possess choice manuscripts such as monastic cartularies relating to these uncharted areas, these did not take the place of many of the more mundane records and a good background knowledge of the parishes concerned.

Blomefield markedly increased the number of visits to different parts of the county at this time, in what was obviously an attempt to give himself a wider knowledge of his subject.¹⁸ For example in June and July 1734 he spent a fortnight in Flegg Hundred and in the town of Great Yarmouth. He then briefly returned to Fersfield before setting out again for a fortnight in the vicinity of Lynn, Castleacre, and Launditch Hundred.¹⁹ Other areas visited in the same year included Aylsham, Harleston, and Oxborough, as well as his regular visits to Norwich. However Norfolk is a county of more than seven hundred and fifty parishes. Working on horseback and with no other commitments, Blomefield might cover twenty parishes in a week, transcribing his notes in the evenings, but the opportunities for such concentrated work away from his parochial duties were rare and limited to the summer months. It would not have been possible to cover the whole county in this manner. The strain of this travelling had its effect and in the autumn his health gave way to a prolonged illness from which he did not fully recover until the following spring.²⁰ The historian therefore had either to drastically curtail his coverage in the face of this difficulty, or else find a new method of gathering his information. He chose the latter course, and did this by enlisting the aid of the incumbents of each parish.

Blomefield probably copied the idea of a parochial questionnaire from his friend Francis Peck who had recently used the technique to gather material relating to Leicestershire and Rutland.²¹ Towards the end of 1734 Blomefield drafted a letter

containing 80 questions, set out under twenty headings, covering every aspect of the topographical history of the parish which might be included in a county history.²² Several hundred of these letters were printed, of which at least two hundred and fifteen were distributed to Norfolk incumbents during 1735.²³ The first questionnaires were tentatively sent to those known to be sympathetic to the project such as Charles Barnwell, James Baldwin, or William Herne. Soon afterwards Blomefield began to send them to every parish where he could trace the name of the incumbent.

The reaction was mixed, but on the whole the exercise proved to be worthwhile. The size and complexity of the questionnaire put off some, and others distrusted the author's motives. In some areas, however, Blomefield was able to overcome the fact that he was not known by sending the questionnaires to friends to pass them on to the clergy of their acquaintance. Such objections as there were, were summed up in a letter by John Lane, rector of Saxlingham, in which he declined to co-operate;

First of all, that I find nothing in either of my parishes... worthy to be communicated to the publick. Secondly that should there be any thing relating to the manors, or customs thereof, worthy to be taken notice of, I should by no means presume to do it; not thinking it either civil or gratefull, to expose the private properties of a friend, & a gentleman, without his leave, to the publick observation of mankind. Thirdly that so particular & exact an account of every minute circumstance, mentioned in the queries, would (in my opinion) render the work too voluminous, & by no means please such of the curious readers, as would willingly be acquainted with every valuable piece of antiquity, without so great a mixture of such as is not so.²⁴

However, a few rebuffs were more than offset by a number of very full replies such as those supplied by the octogenarian John Russell concerning his three parishes of Brundal, Postwick, and Great Plumstead, but who nevertheless refused to subscribe to the work 'because I am soon to die'.²⁵ Writing to Antony Norris in November 1735, the author was certainly very pleased with the response so far: 'tis [impossible] to tell you what great helps have come in by my queries, sometimes having 20 or 30 sheets besides books, letters, records & papers, for a single hundred.²⁶

Other helpers

The help received by Blomefield from antiquaries in Norfolk was considerable, but its ultimate importance to the project as a whole has been overstated. Except from Parkin (who was originally given responsibility for about one sixth of the county) the help received was patchy and mostly limited to the preparatory period prior to the commencement of publication. Thereafter the author's friends remained sympathetic and might occasionally loan manuscripts, but there was certainly no team of helpers gathering and preparing materials under Blomefield's direction. The assistance which he might receive is best illustrated with respect to the hundreds of Holt and North Greenhoe in the north of the county. This area was

remote from Fersfield, but Blomefield was fortunate in having three notable contacts; Dr Henry Briggs rector of Holt, John Holmes the master of the Holt Grammar School, and Dr Edmund Newdigate a physician of Walsingham. Briggs, in particular, was a man of substance in the locality and so his offer to forward copies of the questionnaire to his brother clergy in Holt Hundred was eagerly accepted, and was no doubt instrumental in returning some useful replies.²⁷ Even so there were a few refusals to answer the questions, and other copies were never returned. Briggs also assisted in other ways, subscribing for the work, canvassing his friends for subscriptions, financing two illustrated plates for the history,²⁸ as well as supplying a great deal of information relating to his own family. John Holmes offered to ride within a ten mile radius of Holt on any of his school vacations to transcribe church notes on Blomefield's behalf, in return for information about the history of the founding of his school by the Gresham family.²⁹ Similarly Edmund Newdigate both collected church notes from his locality and supplied information relating to the history of Walsingham Priory as well as finding several subscribers.³⁰

Two other notable helpers, Antony Norris and Thomas Tanner, were both living outside the county throughout the period that the work was under preparation but were nevertheless able to make significant contributions. Norris had built up a large collection of church notes, particularly with respect to the hundreds to the east of Norwich such as Taverham, Happing, Tunstead, Blofield, and Walsham. All of these had been put at Blomefield's disposal in 1733, and he transcribed many of the entries into his own manuscript volume of church notes.³¹

Bishop Tanner's name is frequently cited as a major contributor, and he certainly played an important role in encouraging and advising the young Blomefield during the early stage and acting as a patron for the project. Tanner's direct contribution to the finished text was minimal however as he only lived to read through the manuscript for Diss, for which Blomefield already had a great deal of material.³² The bishop had earlier agreed to make additions and corrections to the text from his own notes and for two winters running he carried them to London in anticipation of seeing the manuscript. When Blomefield eventually sent the account of Diss in April 1735 Tanner had already set out for his diocese without his notes, and so he did not see the account until the following September.³³ Blomefield afterwards forwarded the manuscript of Giltcross fairly quickly, but Tanner was by then suffering from his final illness. The untouched manuscript was returned to him by Tanner's executor a few weeks later.³⁴

Some of Tanner's written work was of use to Blomefield however. As chancellor of Norwich Diocese, he had collated and indexed the institution books within his custody, and this proved to be a most useful work of reference for those areas which Blomefield did not know well.³⁵ Similarly, before he began his second volume, Blomefield announced in the press that he had access to both Tanner's and John Kirkpatrick's notes relating to the city of Norwich, but this may have

been an exaggeration to some degree in order to give the forthcoming work some prestige.³⁶

Blomefield therefore worked mostly alone and unaided although frequently making use of materials collected by other men. The process of sorting, collating and updating Le Neve's materials and deciding what ought to be included and which topics required further investigation, was also his sole responsibility in most areas.

The initial preparatory period for the history came to an end in the summer of 1735. After his recovery from a long illness the author had resumed serious work and visits to parishes. During the spring, whilst convalescing, he had been allowed to spend a fortnight at Oxnead Hall following the recent death of the bankrupt Earl of Yarmouth. Here he found vast quantities of historical materials relating to the Paston family including the famous 'Paston Letters' which had lain unregarded in the muniment room since the sixteenth century.³⁷

At this time he appears to have had ready for the press the hundreds of Diss, Giltcross, and Shropham, as well as a lot of the material to write up for Wayland and the borough of Thetford. He had sent his manuscript of Diss hundred for Tanner's approval and he knew also that Charles Parkin was proceeding well with Grimeshoe. His materials for the remainder of the county were still largely unprepared and unregarded although he was beginning to see the fruits of sending out his questionnaire and of the help of some friends. Many subscribers had been waiting for two years and so inevitably he was anxious to restore their confidence as quickly as possible by beginning to publish. During the intervening period he had also decided that his work warranted publication as a folio, rather than the large quarto originally envisaged.

In reality only about ten per cent of the county was ready and perhaps half as much again in an advanced state of preparation. However he might have been in a position to have come to grips with the remainder of his task over a period of two or three years had he not created for himself the additional burden of becoming his own printer and subsequently his own bookseller.

1. Letter 36. The reference is to H. Chauncy, *The historical antiquities of Hertfordshire* (London, 1700).

2. *Proposals for printing by subscription, An Essay towards a Topographical History of... Norfolk* (Norwich, 1733).

3. *Journal and letter-book* f.142 - memoranda.

4. P. Gaskell, *A new introduction to bibliography* (Oxford, 1972), p.81. There were many examples of authors publishing their own works in this way in the 1720s and 1730s, but the practice was later to fall out of fashion (Keith Maslen, 'Printing for the author; from the Bowyer ledgers 1710-75', *The Library* XXVII (1972), 302).

5. R.M. Wiles, *Serial publication in England before 1750* (Cambridge, 1957) covers this topic fully; pp.140-2 and p.302 relate to Blomefield.

6. 'The compiler of the antiquities of Norfolk ... is one Francis Blomefield ... a young man, but has a good genius for antiquities and Mr [Thomas] Baker believes he will perform well; but printing in parts, tho' he sent Mr Baker his proposalls, he could not encourage his design as he otherwise inclined to.' From the diary of Thomas Hearne, in *Remarks and collections of Thomas Hearne* (11 vols. Oxford, 1885-1921), ix. 304.

7. *Journal and letter-book* f.3.
8. Letters 1-4.
9. Letters 5-6.
10. Letter 18.
11. Letter 27.
12. Letters 7 and 25.
13. The accounts of Grimeshoe and South Greenhoe published by Blomefield were written by Parkin. That of Clacklose was also completed but had not been published at the time of Blomefield's death (letter from Parkin to Thomas Martin 23 Jun 1752, N.R.O., NNAS c3/2/10).
14. Letter 1.
15. Letters 23 and 25.
16. Letters 32 and 37.
17. Letter 32.
18. Bodl. Libr., MSS. Gough Norfolk 4-5 include his notes and give the dates for his visits.
19. Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Norfolk 5 fols.68-9, reproduced in C.L.S. Linnell, 'Some notes on the Blomefield MSS in the Bodleian Library', *A miscellany* (Norfolk Record Society, xxii, 1951).
20. Letters 32 and 34.
21. G.A. Stephen, 'Francis Blomefield's queries in preparation for his history of Norfolk', *Norfolk Archaeology*, xx (1921), 1-10.
22. Letter 294.
23. *Journal and letter-book* f.155 et seq. contains a list of recipients.
24. Letter 254.
25. Letter 257
26. Letter 62.
27. Many of the replies are preserved with the Frere MS. for Holt Hundred, see B. Cozens-Hardy, *A calendar of such of the Frere Manuscripts as relate to the Hundred of Holt* (Norfolk Record Society, i, 1931).
28. Engravings 2 and 3.
29. Letter 250.
30. Letter 54.
31. Letter 12 and Bodl. Libr., MSS Gough Norfolk 4-5. However Blomefield did not live to use this material.
32. The MS. of Diss Hundred including Tanner's annotations is Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Norfolk 6.
33. Letters 36 and 43.
34. Letters 84 and 85.
35. This manuscript is described in Historical Manuscripts Commission *1st Report*. app.6 (1870), p.87. Blomefield had asked to borrow it in 1733 but was refused although the bishop offered to transcribe entries for each hundred when required (Letters 7 and 8). After Tanner's death, the manuscript was left to Blomefield but subject to an ambiguous clause in Tanner's will (Letters 84, 85, 87, 99, and 117) and after a certain amount of trouble he appears to have gained temporary custody, although it ultimately remained in the Norwich Diocesan Archive.
36. Letters 263 and 264.
39. *Journal and letter-book* f. 10 and Letter 38.

Setting up the Press

Introduction

From the beginning, Blomefield was conscious that his book, which contained many Latin and Anglo-Saxon transcriptions, would have to be printed with particular care. It was vital he should attend in person to correct the proofs and offer advice and guidance to the printer. At the same time, he would have to prepare his additional copy to keep pace with the press as well as carrying out his normal parochial duties. Blomefield's first wish therefore was to have his work produced as near to his home as possible. This could have been at Bury St Edmund's, but the one printer in that town was so ill-equipped that he was precluded from undertaking any book production on this scale.¹ A more practicable alternative was to have it printed in Norwich, and Blomefield held preliminary discussions with William Chase, one of the two printers in that city, in the summer of 1733, before he drew up his proposals. Chase offered reasonable terms, but he was not able to provide the exotic types required.² The author had attempted to procure them but was unsuccessful and so was forced to drop the idea of having his book printed in Norwich.

Although he reluctantly accepted the only apparent alternative of employing a printer in London, Blomefield was suspicious that a city businessman would print more copies than were ordered and sell them at a price below his own. His request for a quotation from London in March 1734 therefore contains the stipulation that he should be provided with security against the number of copies printed.³ The surviving reply from James Bettenham did nothing to allay these fears and gave no specific quotation without first knowing the quantity of notes, their position on the page, and the quality of paper to be used. The reply then went on to relate how the author William Wollaston had been cheated in exactly the same way.⁴ This reply was apparently sufficient to finish all possibility of the history being printed in London at this time, and plans for commencing publication were dropped for more than a year.

The earliest evidence that Blomefield was considering his own printing press comes in letters to Beaupre Bell and Charles Parkin during July 1735, and on August 28 he journeyed to Bury to make the final arrangements to employ a workman.⁵ The reasons he gave to Thomas Tanner for his unprecedented plan echoed his feelings of distrust for London tradesmen and made no mention of any saving in cost or trouble:

I have purchased a press and gott a good workman. . . by which means I shall have the oversight of the press myself, which tho' it be a great charge at first, yet will be a continual satisfaction to me for by this means I shall be certain that neither my self nor subscribers can be imposed upon, by stollen copies which is too often the case in such subscriptions (the printer oftentimes printing more than agreed for & returning them on the author's subscribers.⁶

The workman mentioned by Blomefield was Nicholas Hussey, probably an Irishman, who had been working as a journeyman in Bury St Edmunds, and was willing to move to Fersfield with his family.⁷ Hussey was sent on various errands to London in order to obtain the requisite materials whilst his master set about preparing the accommodation for his press, and announced that the printing would commence the following January. By December 19th they were awaiting delivery of the press and types having prepared a printing office.⁸

The Printing Office

There is relatively little information in the correspondence regarding the accommodation for Blomefield's press at Fersfield, although there is somewhat more evidence in the *Journal and letter-book* in the form of various accounts for building work.⁹ The volume also contains a reproduction of a crude map of Fersfield church, rectory and outbuildings, compiled by Blomefield in 1730. Although Blomefield frequently refers to the press 'in' his house, the phrase should not be taken too literally. Accounts left by the author are headed 'expences about my printhouse and chamber', and the nature of these conversions that were carried out in November 1735 suggest the likelihood of an outbuilding rather than a room in the house. Reference is also made in the accounts to a printing office, a printhouse, a warehouse, and a chamber, but it is reasonable to assume that the three latter were constituent parts of the former, although it cannot be said with certainty that they were all situated in the same structure. On another occasion Blomefield mentions 'the house, yard, chamber, and all are done & make a genteel office'.¹⁰

It is noteworthy that comparatively little money was expended on masonry work during the conversion. Only two thousand and five hundred bricks were used together with five or six bunches of lath for wattle and daub walls, and the cost of thatching the new construction was a mere six shillings. These figures imply an extension to an existing building rather than any new structure. On the other hand the bill for carpentry work was relatively high and refers to the construction of joists, windows and flooring. Three pounds sixteen shillings was expended on carpenters' and sawers' work, six pounds on timber and a further five pounds two shillings on deals and flooring. The carpenters also made use of two stone weight of nails. This comparatively high expenditure on woodwork might also be taken to imply an extension or major alteration to an existing building, such as the insertion of a new floor. Finally there are two entries in the accounts for ironwork, one for 'iron doors &c locks' at twelve shillings, the other was a general blacksmith's bill for iron work at seven shillings.

Thus it appears that the press was housed either in a converted tithe barn or else in a block marked stable and outhouses, both of which were shown on the map in the grounds of the rectory. In the Colman Collection of Norfolk County Library there is a photograph taken about 1866 which has the caption 'The barn at Fersfield Rectory which Blomefield is said to have set up his printing press(?)'.¹¹ A wattle-

and-daub barn with a thatched roof is pictured in which two windows have apparently been inserted at one end, and a brick, wattle-and-daub, and thatch extensions added at the other. Although the handwritten caption on the photograph must represent questionable evidence for the siting of the press, the picture fits remarkably well with the surviving accounts. The original barn was about thirty-six feet long, with an extension of about twelve feet. The two windows which are visible were set one above the other, the upper being in the thatched roof, implying that at least part of the roof space was occupied by a loft. The print-house would of necessity have been on ground level to take the weight of the press and types.

It is interesting to note that the windows of the printhouse were not glazed but according to the standard practice among printers, they were covered with oiled paper, presumably to reduce glare and produce a more even light. There are two entries in the accounts relating to paper windows; two shillings and sixpence were spent on 'oyl and paper for the printhouses wind' with a further eight pence for glue, and eight pence for 'oyl and paper from the warehouse windw'.

The press

On 4 November 1735 Hussey was sent to London to purchase the press, some types, and other equipment which would be required.¹² He approached a man named Doctor Gaylard who apparently acted as agent for the supply of printing materials as well as working as a journeyman printer. Through Gaylard, Hussey was able to buy a second-hand printing press from the Southwark printer William Rayner for seven pounds, which Gaylard was to arrange to be dismantled, packed and shipped to Norfolk by carrier's wagon, together with the other printing materials, before Christmas.¹³

There were however considerable delays in supply, and the press and types did not finally arrive until 26 January.¹⁴ The delays were deliberately created by Gaylard who was unwilling to send the equipment until he had received payment, and meanwhile was making use of Blomefield's types for a private job of his own.¹⁵ When Nicholas Hussey eventually began to install it early in February 1736, it was discovered that Gaylard had omitted to send the press points, two friskets, ball stocks, and a sheep's foot hammer, all of which Hussey considered to have been part of the press which he had purchased.¹⁶

Types

The supply of types was to cause Blomefield even more headaches both because he was buying secondhand materials and because he became involved with unscrupulous tradesmen. Part of this complicated tale can be read in a series of acrimonious letters between Blomefield, Hussey, Gaylard, and Jacob Ilive a type founder, although the surviving letters give only half the story. Hussey ordered the types along with the press through Gaylard, in November 1735.¹⁷ Apart from a roman text type, Blomefield also needed an matching italic fount, a quantity of a

smaller roman and italic for footnotes, and a large roman for chapter headings. The specialised text also necessitated a number of unusual types, particularly Saxon, Greek, and black letter. It was the difficulty of acquiring these special types that had made Blomefield abandon any idea of having his book printed in Norwich, three years earlier.

The main text was to be printed in an English type; a size appropriate to the single column folio page. Three hundred pounds of english roman and italic were ordered, at 6d per pound (approximately two thirds the price of new type), which was not received in Fersfield until the end of January.¹⁸ It was then found to be imperfect, but useable, with shortages of certain capitals and figures, and unwanted pied type mixed with the fount to bring it up to the required weight. There was however sufficient for the first numbers to be printed with a little difficulty, but in May Blomefield was still endeavouring to force Gaylard to make good the defects. By the end of the summer he had given up hope of obtaining the missing sorts from Gaylard and was contacting the typefounder Jacob Ilive to make up the deficit.

The types chosen for the footnotes were a long primer roman and italic, which were likewise purchased second-hand from Rayner through the agency of Gaylard.¹⁹ These were proportionately more expensive costing one shilling per pound, and were to cause Blomefield an equal number of problems. They were not sent by Gaylard in the first consignment, and despite several letters cajoling, complaining, and finally imploring, Gaylard put off sending them until the middle of February.²⁰ By this time Blomefield had discovered the true reason for the delays: Gaylard had been using the type for a printing job of his own. When the long primer font was eventually received, it was found to be as imperfect as the text type. Capitals and figures were in short supply, there was little italic, and a variety of old quad and pied type had been added to the fount to make it up to the weight purchased. Once this had been removed, there were only 47 pounds when Hussey had estimated his needs between 50 and 60 pounds. Once again both Hussey and Blomefield wrote long letters to Gaylard but apparently gained no recompense.²¹

Not all the types could be purchased second-hand. In December 1735, Blomefield placed an order through Gaylard for 50 pounds of a great primer for headings, and for Greek, Saxon, and black letter types, to be newly cast by an unnamed typefounder.²² Not one of these was eventually supplied by Gaylard. Blomefield cancelled the order for the great primer in the following March finding that he could get the letters for his heading cut on wood.²³ None of the specialised types had been supplied by the time he severed connections with Gaylard and so the order lapsed and was subsequently supplied by Jacob Ilive. However it is apparent from the correspondence over the next year that Blomefield's relations with Ilive were no less acrimonious and subject to misunderstandings, than those with Gaylard.

Paper

Blomefield was also considering the problem of acquiring sufficient supplies of paper of adequate quality but at a reasonable price. He had recognised the problems in March 1734 when James Bettenham refused to give a price for printing without first knowing the quality of paper required, 'for a gentleman may give 11, 12, 13, or 14 shillings a ream, he may have a very good Genoa Demy at 14 shillings or 14s 6d'.²⁴ These prices were very high indeed, well above that which Blomefield was prepared to pay. He therefore charged Hussey with visiting stationers in London, to choose an appropriate foolscap printing paper. Hussey reported that the prices in London were indeed very dear but he was able to recommend a foolscap sold by Thomas Brewer of Ludgate Hill, at eight shillings a ream.²⁵ The historian wrote to Brewer asking for 14 reams at a rebated price but Brewer only sent back a curt reply declining to give any discount for quantity and assuming that the order should not therefore be completed.²⁶

Although London was the only source of supply for a commodity such as printing types, this was not the case with paper, and during the eighteenth century there were a number of paper mills in Norfolk capable of producing white printing paper.²⁷ Bishop's Mill in Thetford had but recently been converted to the manufacture of paper, so Blomefield was not sure that the local papermaker could meet his requirements. In January 1735/6 he therefore journeyed to Thetford to see for himself.²⁸ The standard Thetford product was inferior to that generally on sale in London, but the papermaker, Thomas Russell, nevertheless undertook to produce a superfine English crown paper especially for Blomefield at six shillings per ream. The historian therefore agreed to have eight reams or more of it delivered to Fersfield within a month.²⁹

The Thetford superfine paper was significantly cheaper than that available from the better established paper mills in the home counties, but was also of a noticeably poorer quality. Blomefield later received criticisms from subscribers and booksellers about the colour and general quality of his paper, and he also received more than one enquiry about the possibility of a deluxe edition printed on finer paper.³⁰ These comments were dismissed with the argument that he had made a deal from which he would not withdraw, and was therefore determined to carry on as he had begun. There was however one major fault which did not become apparent until the first two numbers had been printed, when a number of pages were found to have cracked and split. Russell explained that the paper had been sized in a frost and so was too brittle, and undertook to replace all the faulty sheets.³¹ But this was only a small comfort to Blomefield who was thereby forced to reprint his first number, as well as suffer from a loss of reputation with his subscribers.

Illustrations

Blomefield had at his disposal two commonly used illustrative techniques, woodcut blocks or engraved plates. Woodcuts were fairly cheap to produce and

could be printed simultaneously with the text but they were limited in size and tended to be rather crude in execution. Copperplate engravings on the other hand could be produced in any size likely to be used in a book and could reproduce fine detail. However, they were relatively expensive to produce, and as an intaglio image, they had to be produced separately using a rolling press.

Blomefield generally aimed to use copper engravings for illustrations enhancing the appearance of his work, particularly as he hoped to have them financed by individual subscribers wishing to see specific illustrations adorning the history of Norfolk. However, there were also coats of arms, representations of churches and monuments which the author wished to illustrate and elucidate, rather than decorate his text. These he had to finance himself, and so tended to be woodcuts.

Engravings

The idea that the history of Norfolk would be illustrated by engraved plates, commissioned by the local gentry, was first mentioned in the proposals of 1733.³² Blomefield had originally intended to employ an engraver named Andrew Mott, but this man died in 1734 before any of the illustrations were ready for execution. The author was therefore recommended to approach another engraver named William Henry Toms, who had recently finished a plate of the Norwich Market Cross.³³

The author had no particularly strong feeling about the illustrations in his work and was willing to include anything for which he could gain subscriptions, but was equally determined that he would be put to no extra cost by such inclusion.³⁴ He did however attempt to exercise some control over the quality of workmanship, not wishing to know the price for inferior work 'for he would allow no such in his book'.³⁵ He also wanted complete control over the engraved plates to prevent them being published elsewhere, and always refused to return them to the subscribers who had paid for them.³⁶

The first subscriptions for plates were received in 1733 from the author's friend James Baldwin, for an engraving of Buckenham Castle and from Henry Briggs who wanted his family arms and a funeral monument to be included.³⁷ Similarly, Thomas Tanner soon agreed to subscribe for an engraving of the ruins of Cromer church.³⁸ Other subscriptions were for the armorial bearings of important local families such as those of Holland, Wodehouse, Richardson, or Jernegan, to accompany genealogies in the text.³⁹ Some individuals who had not hitherto been friends of the author could also show considerable generosity. One such was William Winde, who subscribed for seven plates relating to his family.⁴⁰ William Toms was a competent workman who did not always keep his word regarding prices and completion dates. In later years he was to achieve some fame within his trade as the engraver and publisher of *Chorographia Britanniae, or a set of maps of all counties of England and Wales*, which went through various editions between 1742 and 1749. The rather varied quality of the engraved illustrations in Blomefield's history is due more to the different qualities of the

original drafts, for Blomefield was certainly no draughtsman. However on those occasions when he could persuade his friend Thomas Martin to undertake the drawing, Toms could come up with some excellent work.

As a rule, soliciting for subscribers to plates was difficult, as it relied so much on the vanity and the generosity of the local gentry. When discussing a potential subscription it was impossible for Blomefield to specify the cost of a plate as he was unable to assess the engraving charges, and at times he had to commission a draft. Blomefield also tended to underestimate the cost of each plate and frequently had difficulty in getting the subscriber to meet the full price. In letter after letter he told his engraver that the charges for plates were too high and tried to get him to agree to charge a fixed rate of two guineas for a full sized plate and proportionately less for a smaller one.⁴¹ Naturally the engraver avoided committing himself until he saw the detail involved, and knew how long it would take.

The plates had to be engraved and printed well in advance of the corresponding letterpress so that they could be inserted without holding up the production of the text. Blomefield therefore tried to commission as many as possible before he started publication. Later several would-be subscribers were refused as it was too late. He would also engrave and print new illustrations as soon as the subscriptions were received, no matter how much in advance of their eventual inclusion. Thus some of the earliest plates did not appear in the history for many years.

The first order for a plate of the monument to Edmund Hobart in Norwich Cathedral, subscribed by Henry Briggs, was sent to Toms in April 1735 with a request to know the price of engraving and printing.⁴² Three letters, progressively stronger in tone, enquiring about the work were ignored before the first proof was delivered in August.⁴³ A second order for a plate of the du Bois monument in Fersfield church was then dispatched with detailed instructions, in mid-September, which once again was subject to delay.⁴⁴ The finished work was finally supplied with an inflated bill and a request for further commissions in January 1736, but only after three further letters enquiring about it from Blomefield.⁴⁵ Infuriated by Toms' attitude, Blomefield almost sent a letter dismissing him when caution prevailed and instead he merely sent another mildly chiding him and asking for a rebate.⁴⁶ At the same time the historian set about having his remaining plates engraved by another man.

Amidst all the problems of equipping his printing office, Blomefield was seriously worried about the time taken to produce his engravings, and was far from impressed by his engraver. Shortly after Christmas 1735 he received an unusual approach from an engraver named Francis Hoffman, a friend of Doctor Gaylard, who was offering to come and work in Fersfield where he could make the original drafts and carry out the engraving in direct consultation with the author. This was followed shortly afterwards by a letter from Gaylard recommending him.⁴⁷

Hoffman appeared to be the solution to many of Blomefield's problems, and he had the additional advantage of also being able to execute woodcuts. Therefore,

after enquiries regarding terms, Blomefield invited him to Fersfield for a trial period at the end of January 1736, and undertook to find him suitable accommodation.⁴⁸

Hoffman was a boastful and self-deceiving character, and even Gaylard warned that he tended 'to romance a little in conversation', to which Blomefield noted that he appeared also to do so in writing.⁴⁹ However he was clearly competent and could supply proof of his good workmanship. Also his charges were no higher than those of other workmen and were perhaps subject to negotiation once he was installed in the Norfolk countryside where he could obtain no alternative work. He arrived in Fersfield on 13 February 1735/6 and was persuaded to reduce his prices for woodcuts and copper plates and so was given a large number of jobs and an advance payment.⁵⁰ Three weeks later he had absconded with all the plates he had completed, leaving only a few woodcut initial letters, a printers' factotum representing Fersfield church, and a coat of arms. Some attempt was made to trace him through Gaylard, but soon afterwards Blomefield broke off dealings with the latter and tried to forget the unhappy affair of his connections with these men.⁵¹ The incident had however shown him the advantage of employing an honest engraver to work on the spot.

Throughout all his dealings with Hoffman, Blomefield had been hedging his bets with Toms, alternatively cajoling with the promise of more work and threatening with the possibility of employing another engraver, whilst simultaneously disputing about charges. Toms, on the other hand, now lacked commissions and could carry out Blomefield's jobs quickly, and he made vague promises about lower prices for future work.⁵² Relations between the two men improved during the spring of 1736 as the publication was commencing and Toms began producing work more promptly. As a result Blomefield invited him to stay at his house during the summer intending to work out a programme for the following year. However, Toms did not come to Fersfield at this time; there is a gap in the surviving correspondence and so it is not known why, but a letter written the following October shows an exasperated Blomefield once again disputing charges made by the engraver.⁵³

Toms may however have spent some time at Fersfield during the summer of 1737, for Blomefield's accounts show that a number of plates were engraved then, including Thomas Tanner's promised subscription, which was eventually honoured by his son. Thereafter only two letters to Toms survive from December of that year. These follow the same pattern with complaints about charges and promises of more work, and the offer of a Christmas fowl.⁵⁴ Toms continued to be employed by Blomefield until at least 1743 and so presumably by this time the two men were able to come to satisfactory terms. There were however noticeably fewer commissions in the second and third volumes and the author appears to have become disillusioned with the difficult business of soliciting for illustrations, and so he let any would-be subscribers make the first approach to him, and then stuck fairly rigidly to the conditions he had laid down.⁵⁵

Woodcuts

Woodcut illustrations were used more often in the history than engravings, because they were cheaper and could be printed simultaneously with the text. Most of them were financed by Blomefield rather than subscribers and tended to serve the more utilitarian purpose of illustrating the text rather than ornamenting the book. The first three volumes contain forty-nine different woodcut representations of the arms of Norfolk gentry appearing in more than one hundred separate illustrations. Some could legitimately be used on several occasions, as, for example, when the arms of the Howard family appeared on monuments in a number of churches, but on other occasions the same woodcut was used to represent the arms of different families, as the arms were simply cut and were not shaded according to the usual convention to represent the heraldic tinctures. Instead they were either labelled in an accompanying description or else they contained slots for type sorts to indicate each tincture.

Blomefield also commissioned four woodcut ornaments as head or tail pieces to stress breaks in the text at the beginning and end of sections. These ornaments did not illustrate anything in particular although their designs, incorporating representations of ruins, were in keeping with the flavour of the work.⁵⁶ One of these was a factotum which served the purpose of an alphabet of decorated initial letters..

Blomefield had also hoped to begin each section of the work with an illustration of a local church, and as he was unable to find subscribers for engravings for these, he started to use woodcuts. However he quickly realised that the number of such illustrations made the scheme impracticable and so only blocks for Diss, Fersfield, and the ruined church of Thorp Parva were ever made.⁵⁷ Only for the town of Thetford were there any number of woodcuts. Here once again Blomefield was unable to find subscribers to pay for engravings of the coins and various seals which he wished to illustrate, but he felt so strongly that he was prepared to pay for their inclusion.⁵⁸

The woodcutter employed for virtually all of these illustrations was William Pennock, who was also originally recommended by Gaylard.⁵⁹ Pennock was a reliable workman who produced his work at the agreed time and whose prices were not excessive. Much of his work was no worse than that of many of his contemporaries, but he was not a man of great talent. In fact he was Gaylard's second choice and was recommended only because Francis Hoffman was out of town. When Hoffman reappeared in December 1735, Gaylard took it upon himself to take away the work sent to Pennock which was not already in hand, and pass it to Hoffman.⁶⁰ This high-handed attitude on the part of his agent annoyed Blomefield, but at the same time he did not wish to castigate Gaylard who was then still in the process of supplying his type and press. He therefore wrote to the woodcutter offering to send him more work directly whilst simultaneously taking

steps to find the worth of this new man, Hoffman, who could both engrave on copper and cut on wood.⁶¹

As already related, Hoffman came to Fersfield in February 1735/6 and soon demonstrated his superior skill as a woodcutter, engraver, and draughtsman. In his enthusiasm for his man, Blomefield wrote Pennock a patronising letter saying that in future he would employ another man for most jobs, but that he would nevertheless send him work from time to time.⁶² A few days later Hoffman had run away and Blomefield realised the advantages of sticking with a reliable, if mediocre, workman. Once again he began to employ Pennock regularly and thereafter their working relationship was without major incident.

Final preparations

The climax of all Blomefield's preparations and difficulties came in the first weeks of 1736. There was the continuing work of collection of materials and compiling a narrative from the morass of the Le Neve notes, there was correspondence with collaborators and negotiations with subscribers both for the history itself and for illustrations, and there were all the problems relating to the equipping of the new printing office. In addition he had to face innumerable difficulties, only some of which he had foreseen. In the middle of December he learned the sad news of the death of Thomas Tanner, and his immediate concern was for the fate of his manuscript of Giltcross which had been sent for the Bishop's inspection. This was returned in January, but he then learnt to his dismay that most of Tanner's manuscripts had been left to the Bodleian Library rather than to a repository in Norwich, as had been generally expected. Above all, he was aware of the loss of an influential friend and patron.

Meanwhile Blomefield was simultaneously involved in negotiations, or outright disputes, with Doctor Gaylard over delays and the incomplete delivery of the press and types, with Thomas Russell over the urgent production of sufficient paper supplies, with William Toms over delays in the supply of engraved plates, as well as the difficulties about whether or not to employ the woodcutter William Pennock. At the same time his journeyman Nicholas Hussey was busy erecting the press as best he could in the newly converted premises, having to improvise for the missing parts. He then proceeded with setting the first few sheets of the text for the author to proof read, whilst at the same time making his own preparations to move his household from Bury to Fersfield.⁶³ It was into this scene of chaos that the engraver Francis Hoffman was to come, and from which he fled within three weeks, taking with him the work he had completed and the materials supplied to him. Fate dealt one final blow to the young clergyman. Alice Blomefield, his younger daughter, became ill and within a few weeks was dead.⁶⁴ The infant was buried by her father on Lady Day 1736, the date which he had nominated to mark the official beginning of the publication of his history of Norfolk.

1. A reference in the *Journal and letter-book* f. 186, shows that there was a printer named Thomas Bayly at Bury at this time. H.R. Plomer, *Dictionary of the printers and booksellers . . . 1726-1775* (London, 1932), p.11, notes a bookseller named Bailey circa 1725, but no printer.
2. Letters 5 and 6.
3. Letter 27.
4. Letter 37.
5. Letters 45 and 46, *Journal and letter-book* f. 11.
6. Letter 50.
7. *Journal and letter-book* f. 186 (memorandum). Nicholas Hussey is known to have been a printer in Dublin circa 1729-30 (H.R. Plomer, *Dictionary . . . 1726-1775*, p.390). Hussey remained in Blomefield's employment until 1738 when he left, abandoning his wife and family in Fersfield, following a domestic dispute. Letter 236.
8. *Journal and letter-book*, fols. 11, 104, 105 (entries in accounts), and Letter 70.
9. *Journal and letter-book* f. 11.
10. Letter 92.
11. Bound in a volume of manuscript notes entitled 'Notices of Blomefield'.
12. *Journal and letter-book* f. 11.
13. Letter 78. Gaylard is not noticed in any biographical dictionary of the eighteenth century book trade. However soon after his dealings with Blomefield he was involved in a bizarre incident in which a seditious pamphlet was 'exploded by a machine in Westminster Hall, while the courts were sitting, creating the impression that the entire building was being fired'. He later gave evidence at the trial of the author of this pamphlet *The trial of Robert Nixon* (London, 1737). 'Doctor' was his Christian name rather than a title. It is possible that William Rayner was selling equipment prior to fleeing the country to avoid prosecution for printing a libel, as Gaylard mentioned in his evidence that Rayner was 'over the water'.
14. *Journal and letter-book* f. 11.
15. Letters 95, 96, 114.
16. Letter 124.
17. Letter 60.
18. Letters 78 and 124.
19. Letters 78 and 96.
20. Letter 114.
21. Letter 124. Later, Blomefield also saw the need for nonpareil and brevier types for footnotes and captions; these were ordered from Jacob Ilive during the Autumn of 1736. Blomefield was charged 3s 9d a pound, although Hussey claimed that the charge should have been 2s 6d (Letters 170 and 171).
22. Letter 70.
23. *Journal and letter-book* f. 107. The letters were cut by Francis Hoffman.
24. Letter 37.
25. Letter 78. There were normally 480 sheets in an English ream.
26. Letters 71 and 72.
27. D. Stoker, 'The early history of papermaking in Norfolk', *Norfolk Archaeology*, xxxvi (1976), 241.
28. *Journal and letter-book* f. 4 (memorandum) and Letter 98.
29. Although the *History of Norfolk* was printed on Thetford paper, the separately printed *History of Thetford* was printed on a better quality paper obtained from London (Letter 231).
30. Letters 139 and 198.
31. Letter 131. There are a number of documented examples of delays in the supply of printing papers during the winter months because sizing could not take place in cold weather. J. Rychner, 'Running a printing house in eighteenth century Switzerland', *The Library*, 6th ser., i (1979), 8.
32. 'Such gentlemen as are desirous of having prospects of their seats, monuments, or other particulars, may have them inserted in their proper places, upon procuring a draught for the plate, and

paying down to the author, the charge of engraving it; or leaving both to him, which he will get done at reasonable rates.'

33. Letter 30.
34. Letter 231.
35. Letter 47.
36. Letters 129 and 268.
37. Engravings 2, 4, and 13.
38. Engraving 1.
39. Engravings 10, 11, and 12.
40. Blomefield was so touched by the generosity that he invited Winde to become godfather to his third daughter (Letter 229). Unfortunately Winde died soon afterwards and so most of the engravings he ordered were never completed.
41. For example, Letters 31, 41, and 47.
42. Engraving 3, and Letter 34.
43. Letters 35, 40, and 41.
44. Engraving 5, and Letter 52.
45. Letters 56, 57, and 119.
46. Letter 121, the draft of which was obliterated by Blomefield and apparently never sent.
47. Letters 92, 93, and 95.
48. Letter 94.
49. Letters 95 and 96.
50. *Journal and letter-book* f. 106 (entry in accounts).
51. Letter 127.
52. Letters 83, 101, and 119.
53. Letter 169.
54. Letters 197 and 215.
55. Letter 268 which concerns an engraving that was never published.
56. Woodcuts 4, 5, and 6.
57. Woodcuts 16 and 21. The woodcut of Diss church is not mentioned in the correspondence but was also cut by Pennock and appeared in Volume 1, page 1.
58. Letter 231.
59. Letter 66.
60. Letter 95.
61. Letter 112.
62. Letter 125.
63. *Journal and letter-book* f. 105.
64. See the genealogical table of the Blomefield family inserted after page 74 of vol. 1 of the *History of Norfolk*.

The production and distribution of the history

Production

After all the difficulties and delays, the publication of the first part of Blomefield's history began in March 1736. Succeeding parts appeared more or less regularly until the completion of the first volume towards the end of 1739.¹ The press then lay dormant whilst the author prepared for his second volume which was published between April 1741 and the summer of 1745. Once again there was a delay before the publication of the first number of the third volume in January 1747 and this volume was only about three quarters complete at the author's death in January 1752. After twenty years of work, nearly sixteen of which had elapsed since the start of publication, Blomefield had completed only about two fifths of his projected work, although he had originally predicted that the whole would be finished within two years.

Had he survived and continued at his current rate of production, the third volume would have been completed in the early weeks of 1753. If he had been responsible for the two further volumes later compiled by Charles Parkin, 1764 or 1765 might have seen the completion. However these volumes were compiled hurriedly and with less detail than the earlier ones and so a more complete account of the northern and eastern parts of the county might well have taken until the mid 1770s to finish.

Blomefield's period of great trial during the chaotic weeks prior to publication was quickly followed by his greatest triumph. The first number was advertised in the Norwich newspapers of 13 March 1736 for publication twelve days later.² The public response was tremendous - beyond the most optimistic forecasts or hopes of the author and his friends - and brought in hundreds of new subscriptions. Within a fortnight the original number of 320 subscribers had been more than doubled, and as word of the project spread throughout the spring, new subscribers continued to come forward.³

Almost immediately, Blomefield's first printing of about 400 copies was sold out and he was forced to stop work on his second number to reprint the first.⁴ A second printing was ready on 29 April, but this was also proved to be an underestimate, particularly when it became apparent that many copies of the first issue were printed on faulty paper and had to be replaced.⁵ By May he realised that he would have no option but to reprint his first part again, but at the same time he could no longer delay work on the second. He therefore issued promissory notes to new subscribers for the missing copies of the first part to be received before the completion of the first volume, whilst his printer set to work on the second part.⁶ From the second number the size of the edition was doubled to about 800 copies.

The seven sheets of the third number, which completed the account of Blomefield's home parish of Fersfield, were not advertised until 24 July. The reason for the delay was the lack of engraved illustrations of monuments in the

church which were printed separately by Toms in London.⁷ Henceforth he completely abandoned any timetable as he realised that he might be slowed down by many factors, particularly as he was now producing a somewhat larger edition than he had originally envisaged.

It was not long before Blomefield encountered a number of major unforeseen problems. The first came in November 1736, shortly after the completion of the sixth number, when the text was complete for the whole of Diss Hundred and for half of Giltcross. He had ventured on one of his tours to collect materials and fell ill. All the worry and overwork of the previous year now took their toll and he was incapacitated for nearly four months.

I laid in a moist bed, which gave me such a cold I thought it would have killed me on the spot. I gott with much adoe to Norwich, & there was seized with such a violent rheumatism that I continued above 2 months confined to my bed, my hands so swelled that I could not write a letter, and my feet so that I could not stand. At length I got home in a coach, where I have been confined ever since with a relapse of it, never having been able to go abroad 'till last Sunday. ⁸

Whilst he was ill at Norwich, Blomefield was at least able to inform his subscribers of the reason for the delay by means of a newspaper advertisement.⁹ However the next blow came when he arrived back at Fersfield to find that Hussey had done virtually no work during the six weeks that he was away, thinking that his master was on the point of death.¹⁰ The seventh number therefore eventually appeared only slightly less than three months after the sixth, and the author's continuing incapacity extended the time taken on the next two numbers to two months each.

Moving westwards along the county border during 1737, the production of the history advanced through the remainder of Giltcross and Shropham. There was some limited respite from the task of collecting supplementary material as he could use his already copious notes on Thetford on the border of this hundred. Inevitably the treatment of this ancient borough was to be much more extensive than any place hitherto described, and considerably more detailed than that of a market town such as Diss. Thetford had a recorded history from Roman times and was for a short period the seat of the bishops of East Anglia. The town had once had more than twenty parish churches, several monastic institutions, and a mint. In fact the account of Thetford alone would have produced a respectably sized quarto volume.

Blomefield had been advised by some friends to consider printing the histories of the boroughs within the county as a separate venture,¹¹ but he realised that these were also an integral part of his history of Norfolk. He therefore compromised and decided that he would print Thetford twice; once in parts 14-17 of his history, and a second time as a separate quarto volume entitled *The History of the Ancient City and Borough of Thetford*. After each folio sheet had been printed the type was then adjusted to fit a narrower measure for a quarto page. Headlines, notes, references, and page numbers had also to be altered before the type could be

reprinted. This was inevitably time consuming and delayed the progress of the major work still further, particularly as it tied up considerable quantities of type when supplies were limited.

Once Thetford was complete, the author was again temporarily released from keeping pace with both the preparation of his history and seeing it through the press simultaneously, by the use of Charles Parkin's account of Grimeshoe Hundred. This required only limited editorial amendment prior to publication. However this period was not without further upsets to the schedule, for shortly after Christmas 1738, Hussey abandoned his family and his employment at Fersfield following a domestic row, and Blomefield was forced to print at least the greater part of the twentieth number by himself. He professed himself not to be worried by this setback:

If it should happen that he does not come back, I take it for granted I can have men enow for my money considering I have constant work.¹²

However despite a confident prediction that the first volume would be complete in sixth months, a further twelve elapsed before it was.¹³ After this date, whilst he was usually able to employ professional printers, nothing is known of their identities, and Blomefield may have worked the presses himself from time to time. The first volume was at last completed towards the end of 1739, having taken about three and a half years to print. Blomefield was not satisfied with this progress but saw no alternative method of publication:

I wish my fortunes were such, that I could afford to run the hazard of doing the work with more expedition, but am so well contented in my station, that I am resolved not to run any hazard to make me otherwise, & for that reason must be contented to do it as I can, tho' not as I would. ¹⁴

The production of the second volume commenced in March or April 1741.¹⁵ The fifteen month delay was due to an important change of strategy; where Blomefield had originally intended to continue to work systematically through the county, hundred by hundred, he now decided to devote the whole of the second volume to the municipal and ecclesiastical history of Norwich, which inevitably involved him in a mass of preparatory research.

Having successfully published material for Thetford both as an integral part of the history and also as an independent work, Blomefield now decided to repeat the experiment on a larger scale for Norwich. On this occasion there was no need to alter the format because the material for Norwich was sufficient to warrant publication as a folio. Thus the new work was advertised separately in both its guises and the same printed sheets were used in each. Two groups of subscribers were listed, and each publication was given different title pages and preliminaries. During the same period, whenever his press was slack, Blomefield began to print some of his other antiquarian notes as a small quarto volume to be entitled *Collectanea*.

Volume 2

Publication of volume two at first proceeded at a slightly faster rate than for the first, but a major interruption came some time between March 1743 and its completion in August 1745.¹⁶ This was caused by the transfer of the press from Fersfield Rectory to a recently acquired house in Willow Lane, Norwich, where it remained until Blomefield's death in 1752. The exact reason for the move is not known. John Chambers, writing in the 1820s, claimed that Blomefield had suffered a fire in his office at Fersfield, but there is no documentary evidence to support this story, and a number of woodcuts used by Blomefield at Fersfield appear subsequently in material printed at Norwich.¹⁷ Alternative explanations may be the difficulty of recruiting competent workmen prepared to live in the country, or the need for the author to reside in the city whilst undertaking work on the Norwich volume.

Volume 3

In August 1745, Blomefield was hoping to begin his third volume after Christmas.¹⁸ However he was once again delayed by illness and by March 1746 work on the first number had not even started.¹⁹ During the intervening period his printer was again employed in printing several sheets of the subsidiary work which had now changed its scope and title to become *Collectanea Cantabrigiensia*. However in June 1746 the printing of volume three was at last in hand, but once again this was quickly followed by a delay, possibly due to the lack of a printer. The first number of the third, and what was then planned to be the last volume did not therefore appear until the end of 1746.²⁰

The widespread incidence of smallpox in Norwich in the 1740s was the cause of several interruptions to the production of this volume, and Blomefield was forced to stay away from his press for six months during the winter of 1747/8.²¹ Soon afterwards he was again without a printer, for in June 1749 he reported to William Cole that he had 'now gotten a workman to his mind and would go on briskly'.²² The first twelve numbers therefore took more than three years to publish. Thereafter matters obviously improved somewhat and Blomefield managed to complete a further nine numbers in the last eighteen months of his life.

Book Design

The second and third volumes of the history showed a markedly higher standard of workmanship than the first. This was partly due to the use of new rather than second-hand types after the completion of volume one, but also due to improvements in inking and presswork. The first volume had been subjected to a certain amount of criticism by subscribers, mainly because Blomefield had tried to include as much as possible on his pages. His lines were too long, and there were too many of them on the page to be read in comfort. William Winde listed some of the objections in August 1736,²³ most of which Blomefield dismissed as being unimportant, although he did agree that the lines were too long and promised to remedy the defect.

Winde also criticised the large number of breaks in the text to include sub-headings and changes in type style used to emphasise points. This problem arose partly from Blomefield's style of writing, and particularly his love of lists. He therefore rejected the criticism 'tis exact as I order the workman, and if there be any irregularity in that, 'tis owing to my humour and not his but my want of knowledge.'²⁴ This problem did not arise so often in the second volume because of the different nature of the text which was more conducive to a framework of chapters. By the time he came to the third volume Blomefield had learnt how to remedy the fault and included many of the lists in narrative form.

Distribution

When Blomefield embarked upon publication he wished to leave as much of the distribution as possible to the local book trade. He made initial approaches to booksellers in Norwich and Cambridge in the summer of 1733, sending them copies of his proposals and asking them to act as his agents for the collection of subscriptions.²⁵ Later in the same year he approached other booksellers in Lynn, Yarmouth and Ipswich with similar suggestions.²⁶ But he was not willing to rely entirely on the trade; large numbers of proposals were also sent to friends. When he was ready to begin, in the autumn of 1735, Blomefield attempted to call in all the outstanding subscription papers and began to draw up his plans to involve the various local booksellers in the distribution of his book.

He intended to distribute most copies to nominated booksellers in each major town, who in turn would arrange for their delivery to, or collection by, the subscribers, in return for a fixed commission of two pence in the shilling (16.7%).²⁷ These booksellers could also publicise the project and try to gain further subscribers by stocking the latest printed numbers and the proposals in their shops, and where appropriate insert advertisements in local newspapers at Blomefield's expense, as each new number was published. They did not buy the parts from him in order to re-sell, and they had no part in the financial risks of the venture. Lost or damaged copies, bad debts, and subscribers who went back on their promises were to be Blomefield's responsibility. To this end he drew up and had printed a standard agreement with each of the booksellers he employed, which also included the overall conditions of sale on which he had always remained adamant; that is that no single numbers of hundreds would be sold, and that each subscriber must agree to purchase the whole work.²⁸ Shortly before the first number was produced, Blomefield knew of 329 subscriptions, of which 272 were to be handled by booksellers.²⁹

The foremost agent was the Norwich bookseller James Carlos, who was then due to handle 144 subscriptions, and was later distributing well over two hundred. The bookseller George Haliday of Great Yarmouth handled thirty subscribers, David Samuel of Lynn and Swaffham twenty-five, William Thurlbourn of Cambridge eighteen, William Creighton of Ipswich seven, Thomas Bailey of Bury nine, and a Diss apothecary named Darby, who sold books as a sideline, twenty-one. However

as soon as the date for publication was fixed new subscriptions swelled these numbers considerably and the author soon found himself dealing with other booksellers who had recorded subscribers' names, such as William Chase and Frances Oliver of Norwich.³⁰

About the time the first number sold out, Blomefield found that he had gained twenty-two subscriptions sent directly to him from London. He therefore accepted an approach from the London bookseller Richard Williamson, to deal with all subscribers there for a commission of three pence in the shilling (25%). Within a few weeks Blomefield found himself supplying more than forty copies of each number to London. Although the terms were higher than he paid to other booksellers, Blomefield found the employment of Williamson (and subsequently his son-in-law Thomas Trye) to be particularly beneficial as his London agents could advance money to his creditors in the capital and deal with a host of other small commissions on his behalf. Williamson and Trye were among the few tradesmen with whom Blomefield always appears to have had amicable dealings.³²

The first twelve numbers were therefore distributed to the subscribers by means of this network of booksellers, but by the autumn of 1737 the author began to receive complaints from some of his customers. Some booksellers were charging too much for delivering numbers to those subscribers who were unable to collect them regularly. Another and more widespread complaint was the delay in the delivery of some numbers and the dirty and battered condition in which they frequently reached the customers. In October 1737 Blomefield wrote to Edward White, asking him to make discreet enquiries about George Haliday, his Yarmouth bookseller, as he had been informed that he was loaning each number for short periods to other customers for a small charge, before sending them to the subscribers.³³ Blomefield had confronted Haliday on this matter, but the bookseller had denied that he had ever done this. A few days later Blomefield received from Beaupre Bell, at the other end of the county, a battered and soiled number which had clearly been read by others before it was delivered.³⁴

At the same time Blomefield was drawing up the accounts for his first full financial year, to Michaelmas 1737, encompassing the publication of the fourth to the twelfth numbers. By this time the accounts had become rather complicated, particularly with the booksellers in Norwich, where there were now three agents. A number of subscribers had by then stopped, others had not yet collected numbers already published, and some had received numbers but not yet paid for them. One customer had even collected some numbers from one bookseller and the remainder from another.³⁵ Added to this there were outstanding payments from the first accounting period (Lady Day to Michaelmas 1736) and also the added complication of accounting for the reprinted copies of the first number. Two Norwich booksellers, William Chase and James Carlos, had subsidiary accounts for advertising numbers in the Norwich newspapers, and the latter also had a private account for the supply of general books, periodicals and stationery to

the author. Not surprisingly Blomefield's dealings with these men became very muddled and subject to dispute. Matters were made worse because many of the negotiations and explanations were carried out through third parties or by letter as the smallpox was rife in Norwich and Blomefield was too afraid to visit the city.³⁶ Chase, in particular, seems to have attempted to profit by the historian's confused bookkeeping methods by submitting a bill in which he charged his commission on fourteen numbers returned unsold, overcharged for advertisements, and deducted commission at a higher rate than agreed. He had also deducted his commission for the sale of numbers which had been delivered but for which payment had not been received.³⁷

Not unnaturally Chase's account brought a furious reply from Blomefield who then determined to break off all future dealings with him. However Chase later agreed to drop some of the more contentious items from his bill.³⁸ The mistakes which had been made by Carlos were less serious and largely related to the non-supply of certain magazines and a charge for one advertisement in the *Norwich Gazette* which never appeared.³⁹ Only the account supplied by Frances Oliver in Norwich accorded exactly with the calculations of Blomefield, and there were no numbers unsold.⁴⁰

Direct distribution

Clearly by the autumn of 1737 the distribution of Blomefield's history was no longer such an attractive proposition to the booksellers as it had been. The effect of these problems with the book trade at a time when the sales were declining but production was beginning to proceed smoothly caused Blomefield to alter his plans. He decided to employ a rider to deliver the parts directly to each subscriber in Norfolk and collect the payments.⁴¹ This would not have been practicable further afield, but his bookseller agents outside Norfolk appear to have satisfied him.

The advantage of this new method of distribution was the simplification of accounting procedures and the regular receipt of money. Each transaction was to be on a cash basis; there would be no complication or discounts and no possibility of dishonesty or sharp practice by booksellers. Subscribers would benefit from receiving their copies regularly and promptly after publication, with no extra charge for delivery. The rider could carry spare copies of the earlier numbers to be exchanged for the soiled or battered copies and so undo some of the damage to Blomefield's reputation. The thirteenth and all succeeding numbers of the first volume were therefore delivered in this way, and the parts ceased to be advertised in the *Norwich newspapers*.

A few weeks later Blomefield relented slightly regarding booksellers who had not loaned copies, who were offered the opportunity to supply copies to their local customers. However the terms were altered so that they had in future to purchase the numbers from Blomefield's rider, like any subscriber, but for a small discount.⁴² These revised terms were now far less attractive than before, and

although it was still worthwhile for Carlos to continue to have dealings with Blomefield on a reduced scale, no other Norfolk bookseller expressed any interest in the scheme.

Once the initial attraction and publicity had died down the number of subscribers began to drop significantly. In the spring of 1737 the author complained to Browne Willis about subscribers who; 'notwithstanding they subscribed to take the whole, many took none, others their own hundreds only, & a great many are dead'.⁴³ By the completion of the second volume, the number had dropped to just over 250, slightly more than a third of the maximum.⁴⁴ Most were lost in the early years of the project for as he ended his first volume, the disgruntled author threatened to add to his next 'a list of all such as have stood by their subscriptions, and another of those, who, though they subscribed, had not honor enough to stand to it'⁴⁵.

Shortly after beginning his second volume, Blomefield abandoned most of his attempts at controlling the conditions of sale of his work. Although he continued to distribute the work directly to his remaining subscribers he also began to permit some booksellers to carry stocks of both spare copies of individual numbers and of the completed first volume, for sale to customers who did not wish to be formal subscribers.⁴⁶ The great bulk of the numbers of the second and third volumes however continued to be distributed by Blomefield's rider.

Unfortunately Blomefield's plans always seemed to meet hidden pitfalls. Some years later, John Fenn wrote on the basis of local hearsay, that: '[Blomefield]... either not understanding this business or not attending to it the scheme did not answer his expectations as the expenses exceeded his receipts - the persons too whom he employed to deliver his weekly [sic] numbers often took the money of the subscribers without bringing it to account & so deceived him; by this means he lost considerable sums'.⁴⁷

The author's earlier experience with the men he employed to print and distribute his work undoubtedly lends credence to this comment, although it is questionable whether he would have allowed the practice to go on to such an extent as to bring about his financial ruin.

Financial problems

The major financial weakness of the project lay rather in the chosen method of publication, necessitating substantial delivery costs. Blomefield did not really comprehend that one volume published in thirty parts had to be delivered to each subscriber thirty times, and the price had therefore to cover this additional cost. He fixed his price of one shilling for eight sheets based on the quantity of printed matter rather than on the true economic circumstances relating to the publication. Any provincial bookseller in the eighteenth century would have been glad to handle the distribution of one thirty shilling volume to customers in his locality, for a commission of sixteen per cent. It was however a different matter to do this on thirty occasions for the same total return. Blomefield experienced problems

with booksellers in Norfolk because they discovered that the cost of distributing his work was too high to provide them with a reasonable profit, particularly once the total number of subscribers had begun to decline. Those booksellers who found the most difficulty earning their commission therefore asked for inflated delivery charges or loaned numbers to nonsubscribing customers. It is noteworthy that the one agent who continued to be employed throughout the project was Richard Williamson (later succeeded by his son-in-law Thomas Trye) in London, who had insisted on a commission of twenty-five percent from the outset. Blomefield had not calculated for an allowance of this size and so lost money on these sales.

Possibly Blomefield recognised the financial weakness of his project as early as 1738, for he was then considering printing his second volume as a complete work, and asking each subscriber for half the money in advance and the other half on delivery.⁴⁸ If he had chosen this method the cost of distribution would have been only a fraction of its ultimate total, but it is also doubtful whether there would have been sufficient subscribers willing to risk their money before seeing the finished product. A similar project for a history of Suffolk by Sir Joseph Ayloffe in 1764 had to be abandoned because there were not enough subscribers willing to pay in advance.⁴⁹ Blomefield does not however seem to have considered his other alternatives of either raising the price of each number or reducing the size. Blomefield was caught between two stools. His finances did not allow him to complete the production of the work without first collecting some receipts, which in turn necessitated serial publication, and yet this increased his costs so much that production was no longer financially viable. Between 1736, when he started publishing, and his death in 1752, Blomefield's income was increased significantly by the acquisition of additional livings held in plurality with the rectory of Fersfield. However it is apparent that the increases did not keep pace with the expense of compiling the history and the losses sustained in its production. The publication of the first three volumes of *An essay towards a topographical history of Norfolk* was a financial disaster for Blomefield and his family for a variety of reasons, including illness, bad debts, the employment of unscrupulous and sometimes dishonest workmen, and the unreliability of many of his subscribers over the extended period of publication. However the underlying weakness was Blomefield's inability to foresee or take into account hidden factors in costing his work so that he made sufficient profit in times of full production to cover the periods when this could not be maintained.

1. D. Stoker, *The compilation and production of a classic county history*, Appendix A, gives publication schedules for each of the first three volumes.
2. *Norwich Gazette*, 13 Mar 1736 and *Norwich Mercury*, 13 Mar 1736.
3. Letter 128. Blomefield compiled and maintained various lists of subscribers in the *Journal and letter-book*, fols.148-59.
4. Letter 129.
5. Letter 129.
6. Letter 131.

7. Letters 132 and 143.
8. Letter 166.
9. *Norwich Gazette*, 4 Dec 1736.
10. *Journal and letter-book* f. 105, memorandum.
11. Letter 231.
12. Letter 233.
13. Letter 236.
14. Letter 231.
15. It was advertised in the *Norwich Mercury*, 18 Apr. 1741.
16. The last definite evidence of the press in Fersfield was in a book label printed in March 1743: B. Lee, *Early printed book labels* (London, 1976), item 391.
17. John Chambers, *A general history of the county of Norfolk* (Norwich, 1829), 1155-7.
18. Letter 273.
19. Letter 275.
20. Letter 277.
21. Letter 279.
22. Letter 288.
23. Letter 177.
24. Letter 177.
25. Letters 5 and 18.
26. *Journal and letter-book* f. 185 contains a list of booksellers dealing with subscriptions.
27. Letter 189.
28. Letter 153.
29. *Journal and letter-book* f. 185.
30. Letters 145-154.
31. Letters 136 and 137.
32. Letter 229.
33. Letter 179.
34. Letter 208.
35. Letters 221-2.
36. Letter 180.
37. Letter 189.
38. Letter 221.
39. Letter 190.
40. Letter 191.
41. Letter 208.
42. Letter 221.
43. Letter 231.
44. Blomefield printed a list of subscribers which is usually bound in this volume, and may be dated about 1745.
45. Blomefield, i. 771. About 1737 Blomefield had started to compile 'a list of subscribers that went off, or took none, contrary to their hands or orders' (N.R.O., Colman MS. Col/8/6).
46. This may be deduced from the wording on the covers of the individual printed parts (a fairly complete set is preserved in the Local Studies Department of Norfolk County Library).
47. N.R.O., NNAS c3/2/13-14.
48. Letter 231.
49. M. Plant, *The English book trade*, 3rd ed. (London, 1975), 228.

The completion of the history

The final phase

Blomefield probably did not really grasp the size of his project until the beginning of 1749, following the completion of about one third of the county. After the publication of the eleventh part of volume 3, he realised that he could not possibly complete the twenty odd remaining hundreds, and the boroughs of Lynn and Great Yarmouth, within that volume.¹ He therefore removed the claim that it was to be the last volume from this and all subsequent parts. In doing so he resigned himself to the prospect of several more years before completion. This does not however seem to have depressed the author, who was now quite content that his history of Norfolk should be his life's work. He abandoned plans for topographical histories of Suffolk and Cambridgeshire much earlier, although during the last decade of his life he made intermittent progress in the publication of his collection of Cambridgeshire church notes which was entitled *Collectanea Cantabrigiensia*.²

The steady, if gradual progress of Blomefield's history into a third volume, coupled with the obvious high quality of work, gave him the reputation of a major contemporary topographical historian. This gained him access to the muniment rooms of the local gentry and secured the loan of other materials, which partially offset the growing disadvantage of dealing with areas more remote from his home and immediate knowledge. Over the years, Blomefield was consulted by historians such as Nathaniel Salmon, Joseph Ames, and William Oldys, and his work was praised by John Hutchins the historian of Dorset.³ Midway through the second volume, Browne Willis successfully persuaded his colleagues in the Society of Antiquaries to finance an engraving of the ichnography of Norwich Cathedral. This singular honour, by such a respected company, was not lost on the author.⁴ Blomefield was always loath to visit London, because of his particular terror of the smallpox, which had killed his father. However following his introduction to antiquarian circles in the capital, he had an incentive to visit, especially when in March 1748 he was elected to a Fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries. Whilst he never lost his fear of contagion when he was staying in any city, this was now tempered by his enjoyment of learned society.

Blomefield addressed the Society of Antiquaries on two occasions, once in June 1743 when he showed a number of old deeds and seals connected with his work, and a second time on 12 December 1751 when he again talked of his history.⁵ On this second occasion he was forced to remain in London longer than usual as he had business with an unnamed gentleman arriving from the north country.

However he used his time to good effect meeting friends and undertaking some additional research in the Rolls Chapel.⁶ It was at some time during this stay that he contracted the one disease he most feared, smallpox. He had perhaps returned to Fersfield before the symptoms became apparent, but by 5 January 1752 his illness was sufficiently serious for him to make his will.⁷ He died eleven days later, and was buried on 18 January in an unmarked grave in the nave of his

church. He had lived for forty-seven years and had been actively engaged upon the compilation and publication of his history of Norfolk for more than twenty.

Blomefield's legacy

Blomefield should have left his family in a comfortable financial position, for he had enjoyed the revenues of the rectory of Fersfield for twenty years, as well as those of Brockdish, and of lesser incumbencies such as the curacies of Poringland Magna and St Mary Coslany in Norwich for varying periods. However, the terms of his will, coupled with the subsequent grant of the administration of probate to his two principal creditors, following the refusal of his executors to act, makes plain just how bad was his financial situation.⁸ Blomefield had in his will attempted to provide for his wife during her lifetime, and directed that the greater part of the estate should be converted into ready money towards the discharge of his debts. But even this modest provision was beyond his resources so that his wife renounced all claim to the estate. She was presumably left with such land as was reserved by her marriage settlement, and any further support given to her by her relations.

The most likely explanation for the parlous state of Blomefield's finances is in the losses made through the inadequate costing of his publications. It is also possible that he lost some money through dishonest employees. Walter Rye reported that the historian had squandered money keeping foxhounds, but the reliability of this account, written more than a century after the events, is questionable and there is certainly no evidence in the correspondence or any other Blomefield manuscripts of any such interest.

How Blomefield's creditors set about unravelling his affairs and disposing of his estate is unrecorded, but Mary Blomefield eventually retained her husband's manuscripts, the unsold printed parts of the history of Norfolk, the history of Thetford, and *Collectanea Cantabrigiensia*. Thomas Martin was charged with acting as Blomefield's literary executor, because only he could begin to sort out which material was part of the Le Neve collection, which was Blomefield's own, and which belonged to other collaborators and helpers. In April 1755 he wrote in answer to an enquiry after a manuscript - 'the late Mr Blomefield's writings and papers were deliver'd to me in such wretched confusion that my pains have been unaccountable in sorting them out, which I have done in such measure to my own satisfaction.'⁹

Once it had been extricated from the Le Neve collection, Blomefield's own collection of historical manuscripts was not put up for public sale, but rather sold outright to Thomas Martin in July 1755, having been first valued by Parkin and Martin.¹⁰ Blomefield's library of printed books was however sold off soon after his death, without prior consultation with Martin, in order to raise cash. It went to the Norwich bookseller William Chase the younger, and was dispersed in a sale of several private libraries during the summer of 1752.¹¹ Nothing however is known of the fate of Blomefield's press and types.

For a decade Mary Blomefield disposed of what she could from her husband's printed stock, either as complete volumes or individual numbers. However the fact that there was no prospect of the completion of the history of Norfolk must have seriously reduced its saleability.¹² In 1763 she decided to sell the remaining stock at a reduced price, but as late as April 1765 Martin was still able to buy individual volumes from her.¹³ Eventually however in 1767 or 1768 she was able to sell the remaining copies to the publisher William Whittingham who was planning to publish the completion of the work.¹⁴

The posthumous completion

The story of the compilation and publication of the remainder of Blomefield's history is almost as complex as that of the first part, and is beyond the scope of this work.¹⁵ It is sufficient to say that in July 1755 Parkin and Martin came to an agreement that Parkin would undertake to complete the work, with Martin providing access to all the necessary historical materials. Martin urged Parkin 'to proceed in a more concise and agreeable manner than Mr Blomefield did', and consequently he was able to complete the task by about 1763.¹⁶ Parkin did not however live to publish the work, and his manuscripts were eventually sold to the Kings Lynn bookseller William Whittingham who published the remainder of the third volume and two further volumes between 1769 and 1775. Parkin's completion of the history was of a somewhat poorer quality than the part compiled and published by Blomefield.

Mary Blomefield continued to live at Fersfield for a further forty-four years after the death of her husband. Her elder daughter, Elizabeth, married and had issue, but her other surviving daughter, named Alice after the daughter who had died in March 1735/6, remained single and also lived to a very great age.¹⁷ Following the death of their mother, and her burial in the same vault as their father, the two surviving daughters erected the following memorial by the altar in Fersfield Church:

Beneath this Stone are deposited the remains of FRANCIS BLOMEFIELD formerly of Caius College Cambridge late Rector of Fersfield and Brockdish in this County and Author of the History of Norfolk, A Work which had he lived to have completed would have conveyed a lasting obligation on his Native County and on himself the merit of Extensive powers successfully Exerted. To the grief of his family and Friends and the regret of Learning, he was snatched away in the midst of his Labors at the Age of 47, on the 16th. of January 1752. Under the same vault also are consigned the remains of MARY his Wife, Daughter of ARTHUR WOMACK, Rector of Buxton and Oxnead, and Castor next Yarmouth. She died much lamented for Her Tenderness, Piety, and Virtue, January 12th,

1796, Aged 89. Leaving two Daughters ELIZABETH married to William Mason Esqr of Necton in this County, and ALICE, who still remains unmarried.

1. From about June 1738 Blomefield had resolved that his work would comprise three folio volumes (Letter 235). The advertisements on the covers of the early parts of the third volume stated that they would cover 'the histories of, Yarmouth, Lyn, Castle-Rising, Walsingham, and the rest of the county'.
2. Francis Blomefield, *Collectanea Cantabrigiensia, or collections relating to Cambridge University, town, and county* (Norwich, 1751).
3. Letters 230, 274, 285, and 286. R. Douch, 'John Hutchins', *English county historians*, ed. J. Simmons (Wakefield, 1978), 146.
4. The ichnography was drawn by Blomefield and engraved by Toms, and appears at page 489 of volume ii. It is recorded in Minute Book IV of the Society.
5. Minute Books IV, V, and VI of the Society of Antiquaries.
6. Letter 291.
7. N.R.O., Norwich Archdeaconry Wills 1751/74.
8. *D.N.B.* entry for Blomefield.
9. Letter from Thomas Martin to Nehemiah Lodge 11 Apr 1755 (N.R.O., MS. 453).
10. Bodl. Libr., MS. Top.Gen.c.102, f. 19.
11. *A catalogue of a valuable collection of books amongst which, is, the library of the Reverend Mr Blomefield, . . . which will be sold . . . Tuesday July 28th 1752* (Norwich, 1752).
12. In a letter to William Cole, 11 May 1755, Martin suggested the completion of the publication of the third volume to Parkin 'for the benefit of the widow, in order to get off several copies of the two former volumes which are at present a dead load in her hands' (B.L. Addl. MS. 5993 f. 73).
13. Letter to A. Ducarel reprinted in J. Nichols, *Literary anecdotes of the eighteenth century*, ix. 423.
14. Fenn, John 'Memoirs of the life of Thomas Martin', *Norfolk Archaeology*, xv (1904), 233-66.
15. D Stoker 'Blomefield's history of Norfolk', *Factotum*, 26, (1988), 17-22.
16. B.L., Addl. MS. 5993 f. 73.
17. She was still living in the late 1820s when John Chambers compiled his history of Norfolk.

Letters from Blomefield's *Journal and letter-book*
(N.R.O., Rye MS.32)

1. Francis Blomefield to Charles Parkin (f. 6)

To The Reverend Mr Parkin Rector of Oxboro. Norfolk.
June 26. 1733.

Dear Sir,

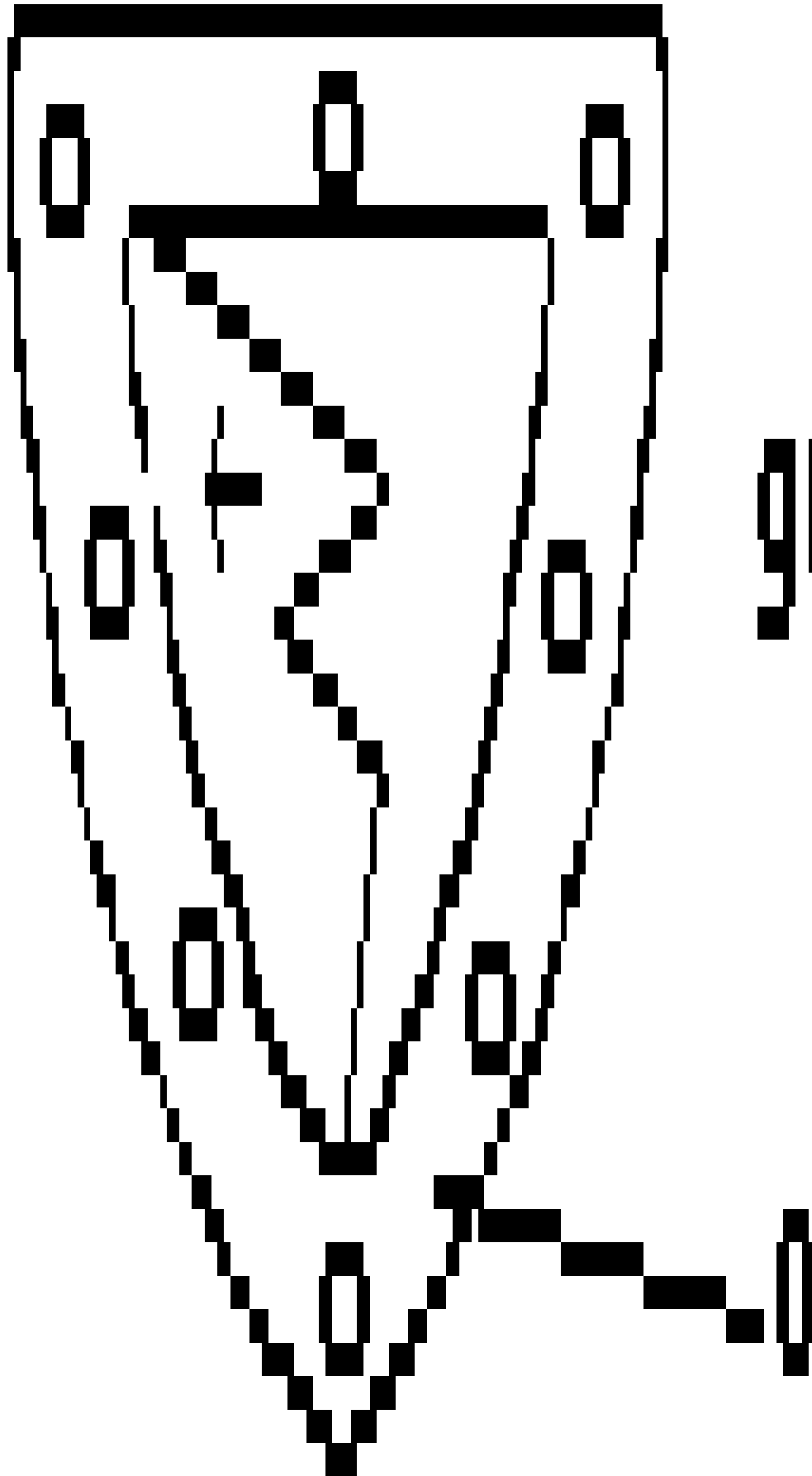
I have here inclosed sent you a subscription paper which will acquaint you <with> what I am at present about. I hope you will be so kind as to get me what hands you can towards promoting the work. I don't in the least fear but you will be so good as to communicate what you can. I shall begin with Diss Hundred, & so up to Yarmouth side first, with a design not to come near your parts, that you may perfect your collections, ready against I come there, & I doubt not but we shall manage in that point to your satisfaction. I very much want to see you at Norwich. Design God willing to be there upon the tenth of July & hope to meet you there, I shall be at St Edmund's Boys Hospital. If you can favour me with an account of the following arms you will much oblige me.

Or a cheif gules, a fess between 6, delis's1 sable.

Argent a fess between 6. delis's sable.

On a bend B. 6 * or.

Or a lyon rampant gules Garbolsham.



Or a dove vert.
 Gules an amulet or.
 Chequy or sable a fess argent.
 Gules a saltyr bezant.

Argent a lozenge gules.
 Argent a bend bezant.

Argent a lyon rampant sable crowned or.
 Argent a lyon rampant gules.
 On a bend azure 3 <plates> bezants.
 Azure 2 barrs a bend gules.
 Or 3 barrs wavy sable.
 Argent a lyon rampant or crowned gules.
 Argent 2 ^ azure in a bordure gules Banham.
 <Ar> Gules a + or a +++ Bezent on each file 3 * or.
 Gules a bend lozengee or.
 Or 3 ^ gules.
 Or 3 lyons pasant[?] or a +++ azure.

I have a great cold at present but hope it is growing better. If you can convey a letter to Thetford for me before the time it will much oblige your most humble servant & sincere friend,
 Francis Blomefield.

N.B. pray send the inclosed to Mr Bell.²

1. i.e. Fleurs-de-lys.
2. Sent with Letter 3. No reply preserved.

2. Francis Blomefield to Edward White (f. 7)

To the Reverend Mr White Curate of Great Yarmouth.
 June 26. 1733.
 Dear White,

I have here sent you a subscription paper, hope you will get me as many hands as you can. I should be glad to see you at Fersfield, but can't flatter my self with that favour, not having had the pleasure of hearing from you for some time. I hope to hear your affairs will go to your mind, tho' I understand you meet with unexpected delays. Pray let me have the utmost of your interest in this affair &

you will add to the many favours already conferrd upon your assured friend & brother,
Francis Blomefield.¹

1. No reply, see Letter 26.

3. Francis Blomefield to Beaupre Bell (f. 7)

To Mr Beaupre Bell at Beaupre Hall in Outwell, Norfolk.

June 26. 1733.

Dear Sir,

I have received your kind letter¹ with the Haddenham

inscriptions for which I return you hearty thanks. I have sent you a few notes of your family. Inclosed is my proposals for printing my Norfolk collections to which I hope you will get me all the hands <to> you can. I have as yet met with good incouragement & hope that I shall *have* subscriptions sufficient for me to begin at Lady [day] next. I have parted with 3 of your proposals,² & hope to dispose of the rest soon. I will send you what you desire out of Domsday *of Outwell & Elme* in a little time, have not been at home this 6 weeks but on a collating ramble. Am now returned, and should be glad to see you. If I may presume to hope for that favour, I should be glad to see the mss. of the Bishops, and will safely return it.

I would, (tho' am <afraid> afraid to be too troublesome) beg the favour of you to collate for me, everything, antique & modern, in the churches following: Wisbitch, Emneth, Halbech, Outwell, Walsoken, Terrington & Estington, & in their church yards, and in the method following:

Whether square or round tower, 5 or 6 bells, spire or not, clock or not, chimes or not, nave leaded, thatched or tiled. Isles S. & N. whether thatched leaded &c, So: & No. porch the same, cha[pels?] same. Whither there be any cros isles or chapells at upper end of the isles. Whither the inscriptions are on brass or not. Mural or altar, monuments, or flat stones & in what place. Whither the letters be capitals, old text or modern Roman. The present lords and rectors.

I shall be exceedingly obliged for such an account of the above named places they lying so much out of my way. I am good sir your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

1. Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Cambridge 3, fols. 315-7. These were folded and sent through the post, but no letter was included. See also Letter 245.
2. Marginal note 'self Mr Baldwin Mr Carlos'. Bell issued proposals for a work on the coins of the Roman emperors but died before it was published (*D.N.B.*).
3. No reply preserved, but see Letter 246.

4. Francis Blomefield to Benjamin Knights (f. 8)

To the Reverend Mr Benjamin Knights Vicar of Buxton.
June 27. 1733.
Reverend Sir,

The inclosed is a paper of my proposals for printing my book, would
begg the favour of your subscription and you[r]

interest in procuring me what you can, to the same, between this and Lady Day next. This will add to the obligations already received by sir your very humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.

The same letter sent with a subscription paper in each. To:
Reverend Mr John Hare rector of Hargham & Wylby.
Mr Antony Norris of Barton Tufts or of Middle Temple London.
Reverend Mr Herne of Norwich rector of Horningtoft.
Reverend Mr Parnell rector of Ashill Norfolk.¹

1. Reply received from Antony Norris (Letter 12). No further correspondence with Knights, Hare, Parnell, and Herne, but all except Parnell subscribed to the history.

5. Francis Blomefield to James Carlos (f. 9)

To Mr Carlos Bookseller in Norwich.
July 1. 1733 Fersfield.
Mr Carlos,

I have sent you inclosed a copy of my proposals, would desire you to get them printed for me as well & as reasonable as you can.¹ I would have about 4 quire of them or 5 at most, and desire it may be done on wrighting paper of about 6d or 7d per quire which I would have you carry to the printer, from your shop. I would have it printed in such a manner that every sheet may hold as many subscribers names as it can, the proposals being printed on the first side of the sheet, the backside & the other fair half sheet will hold a good number. I could like you should print it with Chase, because I had told him that if I could manage it he should print the whole, but find your advice very good, and shall ever acknowledge my self obliged to you for it. I have inclosed an unsealed letter to Chase,² with a design that you should look <of> *on* it, before you send it. I meet with greater incouragement from all hands, than I ever expected, so that I hope when I see you again, which will be about a fortnight hence, to settle every thing.

I am sorry to hear your spouse hath gott the smallpox, which if I had not been told of, I had been with you before now. Hope she is in a way to do well. I have taken the freedom to have my letters on this affair left with you. Shall be willing to satisfye every thing on this account. If you can get the proposalls set by Wednesday you may send me a quire by the Diss carrier, and keep the rest till I come.

If you can meet with

any subscriptions in the mean time, pray don't omitt them. If there be any thing in the proposalls, that you think may be managed better lett me have a letter on Wedensday, & don't print them till you have heard from me. I am your most obliged friend to command,
Francis Blomefield.³

N.B. the words in capitals I would have printed so, those with the ____ under them in italick character, & the rest a good large common letter.

1. *Proposals for printing by subscription, an Essay towards a Topographical History of ... Norfolk* (Norwich, 1733).
2. Letter 6.
3. No reply known, Blomefield received six quire single subscription papers and one quire double, from Carlos on 17 Aug. 1733 at a cost of £5-12-0 (*Journal and letter-book* f. 10).

6. Francis Blomefield to William Chase (f. 9)

To Mr Chase Printer in Norwich.
July.1. 1733. Fersfield.
Sir,

I have endeavoured to procure a set of Saxon types, but find I can't do it, and upon looking over my book find a good number of Greek inscriptions, some Hebrew words, and some Gothic, so that I find I must <do> *print* it in London, it being impossible to have those types any where in the country. I have sent Mr Carlos a subscription paper,¹ which I desire you would print for me. Have left it to him to agree about it. I wish heartily I could have done it with you for I liked your terms & could have been glad to have corrected the press myself, which then I could easily have done. I am your obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

N.B. If it lies in your way to help me to any subscriptions I shall be obliged to you.

1. See Letter 5, with which this was sent.
2. No reply known.

7. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Tanner (f. 12)

Norwich September 7th 1733.

My Lord,

I hope you will excuse my presumption in troubling you with the inclosed.¹ I am about publishing as much of the topographicall history of Norfolk as I can collect. Hope that you will do me the honour to subscribe to my work and to favour it with your interest. I have the use of Mr Le Neve's papers which are now all of them at Palgrave, and of Mr Martin's own collections which are very numerous. I have procured Mr Parkyn the rector of Oxboro to help me in 5 deanery's² & have had severall good collections sent in to me by severall gentlemen since the publication of my design. I should take it as the greatest of favours if your Lordship would be so kind as to lend me the book of your Collation of the Registers in the office at Norwich if it was not lost.³ I will take the utmost care of it & return it safely.

The present Chancellor⁴ is a very great friend to me permitting me to use all the institution & old will books & was so kind as to subscribe for 6 copies. I have waited on my Lord of Norwich⁵ and *have* hope that he will subscribe & favour me with his interest. The many favours that I have so often had conferred upon me by your Lordshipp prompt me to presume thus farr. Hope that your Lordship will excuse it. I am your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁶

P.S. I had waited on your Lordship when in Norfolk but was confined with a long illness. Shall be for ever obliged for any thing relating to the County & in particular for that coll[atio]n.

To the Right Reverend Thomas Lord Bishop of St Asaph at St Asaph by Denbeigh Bagg.

1. Printed proposals were enclosed.

2. See Letter 1. Parkin agreed to compile the histories of the hundreds of Grimeshoe, South Greenhoe, Clacklose, Freebridge Marshland, and Freebridge Lynn, but this area does not correspond with the area covered by five deaneries. In his Introduction Blomefield acknowledges Parkin's assistance only in the deaneries of Cranwich and Fincham.

3. Whilst he was Chancellor of the diocese of Norwich, Tanner drew up an account of the incumbents of the parishes of Norfolk from the earliest times by collating the registers in his charge. H.M.C. *1st report*, app. vi (1870), p.87. Many of Tanner's manuscripts were damaged in 1731 as the result of a barge sinking in the Thames in 1731 (*D.N.B.*).

4. Robert Nash, Chancellor of Norwich 1731-1752.
5. Robert Butts, Bishop of Norwich 1732-1738.
6. Reply Letter 8. Tanner subscribed to six copies of the history.

8. Thomas Tanner to Francis Blomefield (f. 10-11)

Christ Church. Oxford. October 22. 1733.

Good Sir,

I had the favour of your letter¹ and proposall in Wales but it being just in the hurry of packing up, ordination and other bussness I deferred my acknowledgements for the same 'till I could gett settled here. But it pleased God that on the last night of my journey I was taken ill, and tho' I struggled in hopes to throw it off in 2 or 3 days, yet I was at last forced to submitt to the discipline of the physitian, and thereupon have been confined to my chamber almost 3 weeks. I thank God the height of the feaverish disorders is gone off, but I am brought pretty low and must be carefull of a relapse.

I was glad to find the history of Norfolk in such forwardness and when closely followed by one of your youth and abilities may hope to live to see good part of it published. And tho' I must now for ever bid adieu to Norfolk; yet I must ever wish well to whatever may tend to the honour of a country I so long lived happily in. Of this nature I take your design to be and shall so readily subscribe for six copies, and perhaps may give you a plate of some ancient venerable ruins.

Several of my papers about Norfolk were lost in my shipwreck,² and others so mislaid that I can't tell where to find them at present, and my collections out of the registers having severall other things in the same volumes, which are of almost daily use, I can't tell how to spare them. But if you will please to transmitt your copy or any part of it to me, I will supply and improve it with any thing my collections will afford.

I am very glad you have the use of Mr Le Neve and Mr Martin's collections. Pray my service to Mr Martin. I should have been glad if he would have called upon me when he was at London in Trinity term, or that I might have an answer to the letter I writt to him in July or August. I am concerned that the trust King Peter was pleased to repose in us should be delayed or evaded.³ I heartily wish you good success and am sir your very faithfull friend and brother,
Thomas Asaph.⁴

To the Reverend Mr Blomefield rector of Fersfield to be left with

Mr Carlos Bookseller in Norwich. Frank Thomas Asaph

1. Sent in reply to Letter 7.
2. See Letter 7 note 3.
3. Tanner and Martin were both executors of Peter Le Neve, whose will, had indicated that these collections were to be placed in a public repository in Norwich. The reference to King Peter is because Le Neve was Norroy King of Arms.
4. Reply Letter 23.

9. Francis Blomefield to David Durrant (f. 13)

Norwich September 6. 1733.

Sir,

I hope you will excuse this trouble & be so good as to favour me with your own hand and procure me as many as you can among the gentlemen of your acquaintance. I take this freedom knowing your good taste of history in generall & so doubt not but you will be so good as to incourage that of your own country in particular. If you be so kind as to reserve any ancient wrightings whatever for me to see I shall take it as the utmost favour which shall for ever be gratefully acknowledged by, sir, your most obedient humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.¹

To David Durrant Esquire at Scottho:

1. No further correspondence known, Durrant subscribed to the history.

10. Charles Barnwell to Francis Blomefield (f. 14)

Letters received which see -

From Mr Charles Barnwell of Mileham Junior dated at Stanfield. September 3. 1733. -

He promises his subscription & utmost of his interest & to help me what he can. Have writt to him to get me Gateley, Stanfeld, Rempston, Testerton, Forte[?] Wellingham --¹

1. Blomefield's reply and any subsequent correspondence is not preserved. Marginal note 'Answered'.

11. John Jermy to Francis Blomefield (f. 14)

John Jermy Esquire.

Received from John Esquire the following letter.

Sir,

I received your proposalls for an Essay towards a Topographicall History of Norfolk for which be pleased to sett me down a subscriber. I will mention it to the gentlemen of mine acquaintance. If you will send me one sheet of the Essay for a specimen it will be of service. I may also by that judge whether and how I can be serviceable in communicating to you any thing for [sic] the Court Books or other deeds &c in my custody. I wish you good success and am sir your most humble servant,

John Jermy.¹

Norwich. 13 September. 1733.

1. No further correspondence known.

12. Antony Norris to Francis Blomefield (f. 14)

Antony Norris Middle Temple. Esquire.

Sir,

I received your obliging letter &c.¹ As to what you mentioned in relation to the 4 hundreds I am afraid the shortness of my stay in this part of the country will never suffer me to compleat the hundred of North Erpingham, but if you have not already gott collections for the hundred of Taverham I can venture to promise you that, having already done it all except three towns. Happing and Tunstead are entirely done & South Erpingham except 3 towns. Also I have large collections for the hundreds of Blofield, Walsham & Henstead, which are all at your service & hope you will shortly come & look them over. I shall draw somewhat nearer to you at Michaelmas for then we leave Berton to my brother,² and I beleive we shall settle at Norwich. I made an inroad yesterday into the hundred of Flegg but met with nothing remarkable. I have but 8 towns to do of these 2 hundreds but am affraid I shall be two busy to acomplish them this summer. I am sir your humble servant,

Antony Norris.³

Berton August 31 1733.

[Marginal notes listing the hundreds mentioned in the letter and endorsement 'Answered'.]

1. Reply to Letter 4.
2. Antony Norris was the third son of Stephen Norris, the family home was Barton Turf.
3. Reply Letter 13.

13. Francis Blomefield to Antony Norris (f. 14)

To Mr Norris ¹
 September 26. 1733.
 Dear Sir,

Send me a catalogue of the names of the towns you have been at since you was with me. Send me Eccles & Burgh in Flegg, if you have been there. To have leave to print & engrave from the collections now by me & keep them to use as I want them. Do the others in the same manner. Inform me of the manner of buildings, bells &c of the churches I have by me. Gett every patron, incumbent, lords &c & what the manors are called.²
 [Francis Blomefield]

1. Sent in reply to Letter 12.
2. The reply is not preserved but see Letter 25.

14. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Baker (f. 15)

To the Reverend Mr Baker of St. John's College Cambridge. (The most learned man of this age.)
 Reverend Sir,

Knowing you[r] good disposition to incourage <all> every thing that may be of publick use and service, I presume to trouble you with my proposals, hoping to have the honour of your name among my subscribers, and your interest among the gentlemen of your acquaintance. I am sensible <action?> it may <possible> be in your power to help me to some ancient memoirs of Norfolk, from your numerous collections, and having formerly experienced your kindness in things of the same nature, doubt not but you will at your leizure assist me with what <accounts> you can, which if you favour me so far shall be <for> ever gratefully acknowledged by your most obliged humble servant,
 Francis Blomefield:¹

Fersfield October 8. 1733.

1. No further correspondence known.

15. Francis Blomefield to James Burrough (f. 16)

To James Burrough Esquire of Caius College Cambridge.
Sir,

I make bold to trouble you with my proposals, hope I shall have the favour of your hand, and that you will be so good, as to do me what service you can, <in> in procuring me some subscriptions among the gentlemen of your acquaintance. I had sent to my friends in Cambridge before now, had I not been perswaded to stay thus long, that the University might be fuller than it has been during the vacation. I have long expected to have had the pleasure of seeing you at Fersfield. Hope that when you come into Norfolk I may have that satisfaction, assuring you that nobody shall be more welcome to your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.¹

Fersfield October 8. 1733.

1. Reply Letter 20. Burrough subscribed to the history.

16. Francis Blomefield to William Warren (f. 16)

To Dr Warren Fellow of Trinity Hall.
October 8. 1733.
Reverend Sir,

I make to trouble you with my proposals. Hope I shall have the favour of your hand &c as to Mr Burroughs,¹ except this -

I should take it as a very great kindness if you would send me an account of what livings belong to your college, and who gave them and when, and what account you can of the manors in Norfolk, if the college has any. I am almost ashamed to request it but having experienced your generosity in communicating severall things of this nature was the sooner encouraged to request this.²
[Francis Blomefield]

1. The first part of the Letter was the same as 15.
2. No further correspondence known. Warren subscribed to the history.

17. Francis Blomefield to Andrew Peme (f. 17)

To the Reverend Mr Peme Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge.

Reverend Sir,

I hope your goodness will excuse me in presuming so far as to trouble you with my proposals. I have nothing to say as a sufficient excuse for so doing but this, that I should have been wanting to my self, if I had not applied to such a good judge of antiquity, as every one know you to be. I hope that you will favour my work with your hand & intrest among the gentlemen of your acquaintance, and (if I be no[t] too free) would take it as the greatest of favours, if you would communicate to me an account of what livings, manors &c your college hath in Norfolk and of whose gift and how they came to your founder, when & from what religious houses. I am sensible no one is so able as your self to do it for me, and am prompted by your universall character of freedom in communicating to ask this, which shall be for ever gratefully acknowledged by sir, your most humble servant to command,
Francis Blomefield.¹

Fersfield October 8. 1733.

1. No further correspondence, Peme subscribed to the history.

18. Francis Blomefield to William Thurlbourn (f. 18)

To Mr Thurlbourn Bookseller in Cambridge.

Sir,

I am about publishing the history of Norfolk as far as I can collect, I have troubled you with my proposals. Hope you will do me all the service you can in the affair. I had sent to Cambridge before now, but was perswaded to stay thus long, that the town might be full. I have taken care by my own acquaintance and my friends to gett a subscription paper into every college among the fellows. I should take it as the greatest of favours if you would lay me <me> out one into every college among the undergraduates. I am sensible you know some one in every college, and the little time I have left the town I known none.

I have sent you sixteen numberd &c <m> would begg of you to note down to whom you deliver them, from number 148 to no. 163. Please to keep no. *94 & * 99 in your own shopp to gett what subscriptions you light on. I have sent 2 unnumberd which I would begg of you to get pasted up for me one on the School doors, the other in any other publick place that you think most proper. I have sent 6 from no. 164 to 169 for you to lay out where ever you think most proper among

your acquaintance. If you can in Sidney, Jesus, Queen's & St John's for there I have the least acquaintance.

I am indebted to you something. Would begg of you to send me the 5 vol. of the Rapins,¹ I sent you 4 pamphlets of it I had of you to add the other 2 & bind it. Please to let it be done, and get me the whole eleventh vol. I will satisfye you for any trouble in this affair. Intend (God willing) to spend a week or 2 at Cambridge before Xmass, when I design to satisfye whatever I may be indebted. I hope you will forward my work as much as possible. I have met with good success hither to & hope I shall have a sufficient number of subscribers to begin at Lady next. I am your most humble servant to command,
Francis Blomefield.²

Fersfield October 8. 1733.

I have made bold to make them returnable to your self. Would begg of you to tell the gentlemen that you dispose of them to, that I would desire all subscribers to add their college & degree to their name if University men. If not, the place where they live. For I intend to print an exact account of all those gentlemen that are so kind as to forward the work. If any will subscribe for plates let them add the thing that is to [be] engraved whether house <or any other> monument, arms <ord> &c. I desired the carrier to leave with you what letters he had for my friends that he could not find in town, would begg of you to send them to them when they come up, and I will satisfye any trouble when I see you.

1. P. Rapin, *The History of England* (15 vols., London, 1726-31).
2. No reply known. Thurlbourn acted as an agent and subscribed to the history.

19. Miscellaneous memoranda (f. 19)

1733. November 28. wrote to -1

Reverend Mr Herne -2

Reverend Mr Clipwell - answered with Dr Cammells inserted³

Mr Robert Smith - answered⁴

Mr Robert Lulman -5

Dr Gardiner -6

Dr Briggs -7

2 Mr Lemans -8

Mr Tuck -9

Mr Drake -10

Reverend Mr Botte -11

ditto Mr Connold -12

1. Presumably the letters included Blomefield's proposals. No replies preserved.
2. William Herne, Rector of St George Colegate Norwich, 1715-45.
3. Robert Clipwell of Emanuel College, ordained Norwich, 1727.
4. Robert Smith, Master of the Boys Hospital Norwich.
5. Unidentified
6. Dr. John Gardiner, Rector of Great Massingham and St Giles' Norwich.
7. Dr. Henry Briggs; see Letter 33.
8. John Leman, Rector of Kirkstead (1730-77) and William Leman (1704-89) of Brampton.
9. Charles Tuck, Fellow of Caius College, subsequently Rector of St Michaels Coslany, Norwich.
10. James Drake of Aylsham see Letter 29.
11. Thomas Botte, Rector of Whinburgh Norfolk 1723-9.
12. Probably William Conold, Rector of Stratton Strawless.

20. James Burrough to Francis Blomefield (f. 19)

December 12. [1733]

Dr Burroughs letter answered¹ from whom I received 6 subs[cription]s and a generous account of his parishes Horstead & Coltishall.

1. Reply to 15. No further correspondence known.

21. Francis Blomefield to John Dawney (f. 19)

[December 12. 1733]

Then wrote to Mr Dawney of Caius College who promised me his assistance.¹

1. No reply preserved. Dawney subscribed to the history.

22. Francis Blomefield to Charles Parkin (f. 19)

[December 12. 1733]

To Mr Parkyn Rector of Oxboro on his having finished Grymshoo Hundred for me, and going on to South Grenehoe, to meet me 21 January at Norwich to finish the collation of the Registers. - Received an account that he would meet me.¹

1. Parkin's reply is not preserved.

23. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Tanner (f. 20)

To the Right Reverend Father in God Thomas Lord Bishop of Saint Asaph at Christ Church Oxford, by way of London.

Fersfield. November 30. 1733.

My Lord,

I have been a long tour about the county. At my return received your Lordships kind letter,¹ for which honour I shall never have it in my power to return sufficient acknowledge-ments. I was very glad to hear of your recovery <to your> and hope <it> this disorder may be a means to confirm your future health. I can't omitt returning thanks for your subscriptions, and shall be extreamly obliged for a plate of any ruins in the county that your Lordship shall choose. I am universally advised to print <it> in folio, should be exceeding<ly> thankfull for your <Lordships> opinion in that point by which I shall be absolutely determined. The cheif reason that is offerd, is because <then> the plates will need no folding which sometimes must be, if in quarto.

<As> Your Lordship*s* <is so> exceeding kind <to me as to vouchsafe trouble your sel[f] as offer> promise <with> to supply and improve <the> my copy with what your collections afford makes me so bold as to begg the favour to know how I can safely convey the parts to your inspection before <I b> I print them.² I design to begin with Diss Hundred in which I live, and indeed (to say the truth) of which I have <by far> the most compleat collection. This hundred I beleive will make 2 parts, which I have already drawn up, and am now transcribing <them> fair. I hope to have done the first <part> by *the middle of* February, and would send it to your Lordship <as soon as ever> then if I know how. Hoping you will either add <or d> alter or diminish what ever your <Lordship> think proper, <to whose judgment I entirely submitt it, and> esteeming it <the> my greatest happiness & honour that I have such a freind.

I am somewhat at a loss whither I shall give a short description of the county and of the Earls <ther> & Dukes there of, at the beginning of the work. Some advise me to do it, others the contrary, alledging that this is only doing what hath been done before. I should be glad to have your advice in this point. I spake to Mr Martin as you desired, who says he intends to wait on you when he goes to London <next>, desiring me to <let> *acquaint* you <know> that he was <cal> in a great hurry of bussness when <he> last <at London> *there* else had waited on you then. He desires me to give his humble service. I have me<e>t with a good number of subscribers and hope by the time <I> proposed to have <a> sufficient <number,> to enable me to begin which I dare not <undertake> *do* without such a number the expence of the work being very great. I am your Lordships most obedient humble servant,

Francis Blomefield.³

1. Reply to Letter 8.
2. As a member of the House of Lords, Tanner had the right to send and to receive letters and packages free of carriage costs under his frank.
3. Reply Letter 24.

24. Thomas Tanner to Francis Blomefield (f. 21)

Christ Church January 4th. 1733[/4].

Sir,

Since I writ last I have had a relapse of my feaver which made me low spirited and almost useless to my self & friends.¹ But I thank God I am now got much better, but what my old lameness and the weakness this distemper hath brought upon me, scarce able to run about my study, take down and put up books as formerly, but we must give way.

I shall upon any proper occasion encourage your work, giving you a plate of a good prospect of ruins, church, or other building<s>, the decaying fine parochial church of Cromer with the ruins of a most noble chancell sufferd to fall down within memory, used to strike me with the greatest concern.² I can't well tell how to advise you as to folio <and> *or* quarto, which the printer can best direct. I used to think that the quarto with double columns like the Britannia antiqua et nova³ - (tho' it might be a letter a size larger) would be an agreeable volume to print and publish <at> 12d at a time.

I beleive it will be best to enter directly upon your cheif work, and begin with the Hundred of Diss, leaving the general description & division of the county 'till the last. I shall be here 'till the latter end of this month, and after that (if it please God I have no pull back) at my house in New Palace Yard, Westminster; to either place a packet not exceeding 2 ounces weight (but to be certain the post masters being very sharp let it not exceed an ounce and 3 quarters or an ounce & 1/2) will come free to me by the post and I can convey it free back again to you. I am at a loss which is the nearest post town to you. I heartily wish you with the good wishes of the season, all good success with your design, being your very loving freind and brother,
Thomas Asaph.⁴

I conceive that cutts no bigger than will fold in a quarto page, will well enough answer most of your prospects if well done, to be certain you will gett 4 contributors in that size to one in folio. If you print any churches, besides the prospect, the ichnography in one corner will be usefull, and better direct to the monuments.

To the Reverend Mr Blomfield rector of Fersfield near Diss Norfolk.
Frank Thomas Asaph

1. Reply to Letter 23.
2. Engraving 1, which was eventually subscribed by Tanner's son.
3. T. Cox, *Magna Britannia et Hibernia antiqua et nova* (2 vols., London, 1720-31).
4. Reply Letter 36.

25. Francis Blomefield to Antony Norris (f. 22)

December 7th 1733. Fersfield.

Dear Sir,

I have been out about Norfolk and at my return found your kind letter,¹ for which I return you my hearty thanks. Please to let the gentlemen that are so good as to subscribe, sett their hands to one of the proposals with the place of their habitation in the country and that in London also as for instance <the> Isaac Preston of Lincolns Inn Esqr or of . . . in Norfolk or any other county to which they belong for I design a very exact list of my subscribers, whose arms I design to procure and add to the end of my work, if I can do it any thing compleat. All that live in London will have there books deliverd if I can possibly manage it, but those in the country must send for them to the place where they shall be deliverd, all which shall be made as convenient for everybody as I can contrive & publick notice shall be given in the newspapers.

I go on pretty brisk tho' this tour hath set me a little backward, I hope to have my number full by the time, and to begin at Lady next according to my proposals. I had not <d> omitted wrighting so long had I been at home, and known how to direct, for I really did not know 'till the reception of your letter. Pray be so good as to let me hear from you whenever you can spare time, and I don't doubt but if anything occurr you will think on me. I am your most obliged humble servant & sincere friend,
Francis Blomefield.²

To Mr Antony Norris at Mr Edward Jernegans in Fetherston building Holborn. London.

1. Not preserved, but see previous correspondence (Letters 12 and 13).
2. No reply known. Blomefield added a footnote later - 'Received an answer & ii subscribers'.

26. Francis Blomefield to Edward White (f. 23)

Fersfield December 12th 1733.

Dear Sir,

My not having received a letter from you so long¹ made me much wonder, but now that is quite ceased upon Mr Searanks² informing me <that> *that* you was married the 20th of the last month. I *wish* you all joy imaginable and m[any] years to possess it, <hope in a few years to see you a father>. Pray my wife's and my own humble service to yo[ur] Lady, whom we shall be glad to see at any time, in hopes that Xmas may suit you. I shall *not* stirr o[ut] all that time, so that it would be the utmost pleasure to enjoy my old acquaintance. Your spouse need not fear the roads, for they were never so good <as> at this time of the year as they now are.

I am very busy about my book, and meet with great incouragement and daily assistance. Hope you will do me what service you can, and if any time ever lies on your hands transcribe what is in your church or church yard, and putt together an account of the present state of the town & what is remarkable in it. I know no one more capable of doing it than your self, & hope that I shall have gratitude enough to remember all my benefactors & assistances by a generous acknowledgement <of them> in the work. If you would please to buy me a case of red spratts and send me, I would repay them with abundance of thanks. I am your assured friend & brother,

Francis Blomefield³

To the Reverend Mr White Minister at Great Yarmouth.

1. See Letter 2.
2. Rookwood Searank, Rector of Roydon.
3. No reply received, see Letter 63.

27. Francis Blomefield to James Carlos (f. 24)

To Mr Carlos Bookseller. Norwich.

Fersfield March 7th. 1733[4].

Sir,

I would desire you to send me an Oxford almanack, Mr Shuckforth's sermon,¹ A Looking glass for a time serving parson advertised by Crosgrave last week,² The banner of the voters against the excise scheme, I would have th[a]t on a large sheet paper.³ Please to gett me The Universall Off[i]cers Justice &c printed for John Hook at the Flowerdelis over against St Dunstans church in Fleetstreet & Aaron Ward at the Kings Arms Little Brittain price 4s. 6d.

advertised in *Craftsman* January 21. 1729.⁴ Please to make out my bill and send it me.

I am getting in all my proposals as fast as I can in order to go on as fast as possible. I would desire you to get in as many of the blanks you dispersed and what subscriptions you can and send me. I am fully determined to print it in quarto on such a letter and paper as Wollaston's edition in 1725 is printed,⁵ and 1000 in the edition. Please to write to London for the lowest price per sheet for the printing, correcting and the paper, and let them know that I shall expect security to be given as usual th[at] there be no more printed by them than the 1000 delivered to me, *or my order,* nor by any other persons by their means. And lett them sett the very lowest for I shall be finally determined by their answer.⁶

Please to write to Messrs Bettesworth & Hitch your correspondents to send what subscriptions they or their interest have gotten in London. I design to go up <as soon as> *if* I can spare time or if not design to have them lay out all at London & shall be willing to make proper allowances, of which I shall also talk with you when I come to Norwich to lay out those in Norwich and the neighbouring places for me. <I have sent you a list of some friends that have subscription papers in [illegible] which if you have oppertunity you may ask for them [illegible]> I hope to gett in so as to determine every thing this month & see you the first week in April. I am your assured friend & servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁷

1. S. Shuckford, *A sermon preached at the Cathedral Church January 30th 1733* (Norwich, 1734), commemorating the martyrdom of Charles I.
2. Unidentified pamphlet advertised in Henry Crossgrove's *Norwich Gazette*.
3. Unidentified broadsheet listing members of Parliament who voted against Walpole's Excise Scheme.
4. Unidentified.
5. William Wollaston, *The Religion of Nature Delineated* (3rd ed., London, 1725).
6. See Letter 37.
7. No reply known but presumably Letter 37 was enclosed with the reply by James Carlos.

28. Francis Blomefield to John Dawney (f. 25)

Fersfield March 7th. 1733[4].

Dear Jack &c

To begg of him to return no. 89, 144, 145, 146, 147, of my proposals and to send no. 82, 90, 107, to Yorkshire & get them returnd by mid April. - to give my service & thanks & take in for me of our acquaintance.

No. 84. Mr Burrough. Col. Caij. Soc.¹

133. Mr Dove Coll. Petr. Soc.²

136. Mr Hubbard Col. Eman. Soc.³

87, 88. Mr Leman. Col. Reg.⁴

100, Mr Line Col. Eman. Soc.⁵

97. Mr Peme Col. Petr. Soc.⁶

137. Dr Warren Aul. Trinit. Pres.⁷

37. Mr Scotman. Col. Caij.⁸

And told him would get a day or two to spend at Cambridge as soon as I could. I deferr wrighting to Mr Thurlbourn hoping to see him soon. If I find I can't shall write to him then.⁹

1. James Burrough, Esquire Beddell of Caius College (1727-54), and subsequently Master, and Vice Chancellor of the University.
2. Fynn Dove, Fellow of Peterhouse (1730-5).
3. Henry Hubbard, Fellow of Emanuel College (1732-).
4. John Leman, Fellow of King's College (1728-37).
5. Matthew Lyne, Fellow of Emanuel College (1729-).
6. Andrew Peme, although he was a Fellow of Trinity College.
7. William Warren, Vice-Master of Trinity Hall (1729-).
8. John Scotman, Fellow of Caius College (1733-50).
9. No reply known.

29. Francis Blomefield to James Drake (f. 26)

May 20. 1733.¹

To Mr James Drake of Aylesham.

Brother Drake,

My wife received a letter from Mrs Chambers in which she tells me that you have procured me a lad that will fitt me very well. If it be so, I shall be very glad. I should like to know how old she [sic] is and what propositions his friends make, how ever if you please to order him to Norwich he may come by Diss Caravan any Thursday morn whence I will send for him, and if he or I, do not like, upon a months or six weeks trial, I will defray the charges of his going & coming, and there will be no hurt done. And if we like will talk and agree with his friends thoroughly when I come over. I want him to write for me, and to ride with me about the country to carry my baggs and help me to collect and attend in the nature of a clerk. I hope you'll take care he is honest because I must trust him with papers and collections of other peoples of great value. Pray let me hear as soon as you can for I am in great want. Give me an account of him and his parents & where he was brought up & if you know him &c.²

[Francis Blomefield]

1. From its position in the letter book it appears that this letter should be dated 1734.
2. No further correspondence known. Blomefield made an entry for six months wages for an amanuensis in his accounts for 1734, *Journal and letter-book* f. 11.

30. Timothy Sheldrake to Francis Blomefield (f. 27)

March 15. 1733[/4].

Letter from Mr Timothy Sheldrake of Norwich to let me know that Mr Andrew Motte of London my engraver was dead & to recommend Mr William Henry Toms for my future workman in that art, he lives at no.19 Union Court over against St Andrew's Church Holbourn, & as a specimen he assures me Mr Toms engraved his Norwich Cross.¹

I answerd his letter March 21. & accepted of Mr Toms, if I liked his charge & work, ordered him to send me 2 Crosses.²

1. Sheldrake had published an engraving of the Cross in Norwich Market Place, about the time it was pulled down in 1732. However, according to Richard Gough, it was engraved by Andrew Motte, *British topography* (2 vols., London, 1780), ii.,10.
2. No further correspondence known, but see Letter 31.

31. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 27)

To Mr William Henry Toms at No. 19 in Union Court over against St Andrew's church Holbourn. London.

Fersfield March 22. 1733[/4]

Sir,

I received a letter from my friend Mr Timothy Sheldrake of Norwich¹ to acquaint me with the death of Mr Motte the engraver, whom I designed to have employd in what <wd> I wanted that way. I am about publishing the History of the County of Norfolk in which I shall have severall plates, and am particularly recommended by Mr Sheldrake to you. I could not omitt wrighting <to you> not knowing but that I may have occasion to begin very soon. I have a little plate or two to engrave, <soon> and want to know if I send them about the beginning of May if you be at leizure to do them. Am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

Please to direct to Francis Blomefield Rector of Fersfield near Diss in Norfolk, by the Ipswich bagg. I want to know the charge of engraving 2 common parish churches so small that they be in one plate in quarto, & a single church in a plate for a quarto, because I hope to meet with severall plates of that kind.

1. See Letter 30.

2. No reply known, see Letter 34.

32. Francis Blomefield to Beaupre Bell (f. 28)

December 27. 1734 Fersfield.

Dear Sir,

I received yours of the 9th of this instant,¹ but find by it that you had wrote a letter to me which I did not receive. I am much obligd to the service you have done me in my affair, and wish it had been in my power to have been as serviceable in yours.² I have severall gentlemen besides those I sent you, <to> *who* tell me upon my solliciting them, that they will willingly take the book when publishd but will not deposite any thing before hand so that I am certain to put off some half dozen coppies, tho' I have received only my own subscription and one from Cotton Symonds Esquire of Great Ormesby by Yarmouth in Norfolk, which ² I will send if you send me word how. I have no oppertunity of sending it to London & indeed such a trifle is not worth the while.

I am in hope of seeing you at Fersfield, and wish you would come, not doubting but Mr Martins collection of coins would afford you great pleasure.³ I expect to publish my first pamphlet in May next beginning for the month of April.

I have been ill for some time but am now perfectly recovered. Mr Parkyn hath transcribed some memorials of your family from some old pedigrees in Mr Martins collections. I hope I shall hear from you oftner than I have of late, assuring you that a letter from so good a friend is always acceptable to your most obligd friend & servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

To Beaupre Bell Junior Esquire at Beaupre Hall Norfolk.

1. Not preserved.
2. See Letter 3 note 2.
3. Thomas Martin amassed a large collection of coins with his manuscripts and miscellaneous antiquities at Palgrave.
4. No reply known.

33. Francis Blomefield to Henry Briggs (fols. 28/9)

Fersfield January 4. 1734[5]

Reverend Sir,

I received your two letters and parcells very safe,¹ and thought my self bound in gratitude to signify it to you. I will take care and send them to my engraver, after I have copied the arms, and will bring you the original with the charter of Holt Market. I think I shall be at Holt the last week of this month, at which time I will speak with you concerning the plates, which I apprehend will look as well if they be included in one.

I saw a singlestem of the Briggs's of Salle in Norfolk, the other day, among a parcell of curious pedigrees that are to be sold. The Harsicks and Fountains being in the same roll, and the conjunction of those families being very well delineated. I would have transcribed what occurred of the Briggs for you, but being upon sale was not permitted. The line of the Briggs ended in a daughter married to Fountain. But since I saw your certificate, it is very plain that you are descended from a second branch, as this is demonstrated and the 1st being extinguished, your branch is now become the elder of the male line. The original grant of the Briggs's arms, is among the parcell, and not yet sold and if I mistake not is a very fair one. I could not forbear just asking the price, tho' with no other intent than to acquaint you with it, and was answered in no positive way, only about 4 guineas. They are in the hands of the executor of one who was in the Herald's office,² & are I dare say genuine. I shall make bold to call upon you, being determined to view the part between Holt and the sea, which I have not surveyed. I am &c.,

Francis Blomefield.³

To the Reverend Dr Briggs Rector of Holt Market.

1. The letters are apparently now lost. The parcels contained the charter of Holt Market and the drawings for Engravings 2 and 3.
2. Presumably Thomas Martin, executor of Peter Le Neve, Norroy King of Arms.
3. No reply known.

34. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 30)

To Mr William Henry Toms at no.19 in Union Court over against St Andrew's church, Holborn, London.

Fersfield April 4th. 1735.

Sir,

I did not think it right to trouble you <till now,> with any more letters, till I had come to such a certainty as to resolve to begin the publication of my book, which I am now determined to do having gott over some discouragements I meet with at first, besides a long illness which I bless God, I am now freed from.

I should be obligd to you if you would send me a few proofs by this bearer who is my brother,¹ so that I can make free with him to bring them <right to me>. Please to engrave the inclosed <on a half sid / sheet,> some what smaller than this.² <Exact> <Like> *About* the bigness of a half sheet of the best wrighting paper <and place the arms at the corner>. It is but a bad draught but such a one as I had sent me & I think *just* sufficient to *en*grave from. Please to <en>grave the 3 &s at lenght as I have marked them. <You will putt in this dedication in such a manner as you think best.> There will be no occasion to insert the scale. You may place the arms & dedication just as you like only lett the words be putt into some embellishment. I hope you will use me well as to the charge of this and other plates.

When you have finished this, which I would have you do as soon as you can conveniently, take off half a dozen & send me. You may give me a line by the bearer of the charge. I will send you <some> more after I have received the specimens of this. <Which at most?> We have a <weekly> carrier from Diss <within safe> which is near me, <to> *with* whom I <will give> design to talk about conveying things to you safely. If at any time you write by the post, direct to Francis Blomefield Rector of Fersfield in Norfolk, to be left at Mr Robert Coopers in Diss, by the Ipswich Bagg, and I shall have it safe. I am your <most ob> humble servant,

Francis Blomefield.³

P.S. I shall publish my book in folio. I have inclosed a proposall that if you meet with any that will subscribe they may set their hands on the backside of it. <I desire you would send me word if I should want a number of draughts.>

1. Peter Blomefield.
2. That is the drafts of Engravings 2 and 3.
3. No reply received, see Letters 35 and 39.

35. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 30)

To Mr Toms.
May 20. 1735.
Sir,

I thought it proper to acquaint you that you may send any parcell to me, every week by the Diss Carrier, from the Serjeant's Head on Snowhill. One Banks is there one week & one James Clark the other & if you direct them for me to be left at Mr Darbys an apothecary in Diss, everything will come quick and safe. I saw Mr Sheldrake¹ about a fortnight since, who informs me that you have a rolling press & can work off your plates, pray let me know if it be so. I shall thank you for a few specimens, & hope you have done the plate almost for I want to send you more. Lett me hear from you as soon as possible. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

You may also at any time send a letter by the post only name it by the Ipswich bagg.

1. Timothy Sheldrake of Norwich. See Letter 30.
2. No reply received see Letter 40.

36. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Tanner (f.31)

To the Right Reverend Thomas (E[pi]sc[opus] Tanner) Lord Bishop of St Asaph.
Fersfield April the 5th. 1735.
My Lord,

I thought it not right to trouble your Lordship any more about my book till I came to a full determination to begin the publication of it.¹ I <at> mett with great incouragement at first, but found *soon after* the County so very warm (to speak the truth) *there was no room for anything of this nature to be thought of &

so* that I <thought it would be best> *resolved* to stay some time, and accordingly <I have found that> it hath answered me <fro> *for* so doing.

I have sent <your Lordship> the <whole> Hundred of Diss² which, I hope you will peruse as soon as your <business> *affairs* will permitt, & earnestly intreat your Lordship that whatever occurs there in, that you think imperfect, you would be so good as to supply, and whatever redundancies there are please to draw a line <on> under them that I may omitt them. I am very sensible that there are many errors & so hope that you will be so good as to correct them. Assuring your Lordship, that I submitt every <part of them> *thing* to your <jud / superior> judgment entirely, taking it as the greatest honour that your Lordship would deign to inspect <any such / any of> my mean performance and hope that if you do not approve of the method <that I follow> that you would inform me of it, and direct me to any *other that you shall think better. Hoping that you will <permitt me honour> permitt me to dedicate the work to your <patronage> Lordship, than which nothing would be a greater honour to me, nor of such universall recomendation to my <book/work> book as to have your name, which is so well known to the learned world, prefixed unto it.*

I am earnestly pressed to publish <it> in folio, most of my subscribers for plates choosing it, and would have it of a fitt size to joint with Chauncy³ & other <writers on the lik> *authors* <at> of the same <way> *kind*. I shall immeadiatley enter on the *cheif* work as your Lordship <[illegible]> directed and hope to begin <ere long> *by one> at <next> Michaelmas*, my plates for the 1st numbers being now engraving *except some that are finished*.

I had <one> *an* oppertunity of sending this <whole> Hundred by <a friend> my brother <that came to town & wch>. When your Lordship hath perused it at your leizure I would *begg* the favour of its return by the Diss Carrier, who goes to London weekly, tho' I can't tell where he setts up, but will make it my bussness to enquire of him, & <let> *then* acquaint your Lordship <where it is>.

I have had a violent fever again this spring but am now well recovered I bless God for it, & hope to go in about a fortnight to the late Earl of Yarmouths⁴ evidence room, where I have gott admission and find no less than between 30 & 40 chests of antique curiosities and evidences of <the> Norfolk only *such as have been collected by some curious person.*

I have a friend who hath promised *me* a drawing of Cromer church and ruins which when <it is> finished I will send to your Lordship to see if you like the performance, and will take care to have it's ichnography according to your direction.⁵ The near*est* way for a letter to come to me is by the Ipswich Bagg to the post office at Diss. I hope you Lordship will excuse <this troubling you/my> me, being encouraged to trouble you upon your kind promise and <the>*your* known <kindness of> candour <to both> *to* me <and all> *in particular as well as* others that labour in my way. <I shall take care not to exceed the weight in any of the papers that I shall trouble your Lordship with and hope> I hope that we <may once again see / shall have the pleasure of seeing your Lordship this summer in Norfolk, which>. I am your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁶

P.S. Mr Martin gives his humble service, and desires me to acquaint you that he takes care of Mr Le Neve's collections till I have finished, all which I own he freely communicates hundred by hundred as I want them.

1. Reply to Letter 24.
2. These papers now form part of Bodl.Libr., M.S. Gough Norfolk 6.
3. H. Chauncy, *The Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire* (London, 1700).
4. Sir William Paston of Oxnead Hall (1652-1732).
5. Engraving 1.
6. Reply Letter 43, but see also Letter 42.

37. James Bettenham to James Carlos¹ (f.32)

To Mr Carlos.
Sir,

Mr Hitch bookseller in Paternoster Row² this day gave me a letter you the 11th instant wrote to Mr Edlin³ about printing a book the same paper and letter with Woolaston's Religion of Nature,⁴ desiring me to answer it in relation to the price of paper & print. If the book be free from notes the price of printing will be a guinea a sheet. If there are notes I can assign no price without I knew what quantity and whether the notes were at the side of the page or bottom or both. Each sheet will take up 2 ream of paper. But as to the price I cannot affix one, for the gentleman may give

11. 12. 13. or 14 shillings a ream, he may have a very good Genoa Demy at 14 or 14s 6d.

As to giving security that no more shall be printed than are agreed for, I never had it asked of me and should any gentleman insist upon any other security than my word, I should desire to be excused from printing for that gentleman, for if a mans reputation will not oblige him to be honest I fear nothing will in our bussness, where a man has an oppertunity of being a rogue without being easily discovered. The book above mentioned I lent the printer my letter to print it upon, at a certain price agreed on for the use of it, for such a number, which number he almost doubled, and the author would never have been sensible of, had not some of my men been accidentally drinking with his, and the number printed was occasionally mentioned, by which means it came to my ears that I had been imposed upon, and advising with two or 3 friends what was proper to be done they thought Mr Wollaston possibly might be aggrieved as well as my self, and advised me to wait upon him, which I did, and upon the whole it appeard he printed 1500 more than he was impowered to print. The printer⁵ who is now dead menaced me with Chancery with regard to his reputation but he thought it more adviseable to drop it and I have a letter now by me from the editor of the last edition, Mr Wollastons son, wherein he declares the above additional number was printed more than was orderd. As to the plates, as I know not what they are I can give no answer. I am sir your humble servant,
James Bettenham.⁶

March: 28. 1734.

St John's Lane near Hickes's Hall.⁷

1. Reply to an enquiry by Carlos on behalf of Blomefield (see Letter 27).
2. C. Hitch (d.1764) a noted London bookseller and publisher.
3. Thomas Edlin (fl.1721-35) a London printer.
4. W. Wollaston, *The Religion of Nature Delineated* (3rd edition, London, 1725).
5. Samuel Palmer (d.1732).
6. No reply sent, and no further correspondence with Bettenham.
7. Blomefield added the following footnote after the transcript of this letter:-

8 sheets as proposals of printer like Wollaston

[marginal note] about 400c subscribers,

Printing 1 guinea each sheet - - -

Paper 2 ream each sheet at 12s ream

8- 8-00 (a 5000 ,copies in

9-12-00 (all each 8 sheets

(18.00: 00.

To print it like the proposals 16s each sheet 6. 8. 0.
 paper at 10s a ream ----- 8.00.0
 14. 08. 0.

38. Francis Blomefield to Major Weldon (f.33)

To Major Weldon.
 Fersfield May the 13. 1735.
 Sir,

I am <just> now returned from Oxnead,¹ where I have spent <a> *almost a* fortnight among the old wrightings, and have sorted them and placed them in boxes and chests in a convenient manner for you. I have nailed parchment notes <to each box> to show what they contain.

There are 10 boxes of court rolls, surveys, extent books, deeds, and other things material to the severall manors and tho' a great number of them are very ancient yet may be of service, and therefore I cautiously preserved them all. There are 3 trunks & chests full of the ancient and present title deeds to the manors and estates, all which I carefully putt together. There are 2 boxes of old leases only, which I layed by, not knowing but they might be of some service.

<I> According to your order, I putt all the chimicall papers into a box by themselves & gave them to Mrs Amyas to preserve for you. There is a nother [sic] box full of the pardons, grants & old deeds, freedoms &c belonging to the Paston family only, which I laid by themselves, for fear you <should have any trouble to look them out, if you should> think them proper to be preserved with the family, they don't relate to any estates. In another large chest I placed those antiquities that I made use of, and that are of no manner of service to the title, (always placing those that were, among the usefull evidences). They are chiefly ancient deeds, account rolls, muster rolls, & many other things of that nature in relation to the county.

I looked over every loose paper & what letters were historical, as such that related to the surrender of the Norwich & Yarmouth Charters &c I took them out & carried them home with me, as I did the *History of Yarmouth*² & some other things which were too tedious to extract there, all which I enterd in a note which I left for you with Mrs Amyas. There are innumerable letters, of good consequence in history,³ still lying among the loose papers all

which I layd up in a corner of the room on an heap, <of> which contains severall <combs> *sacksfull*, but as they seemd <to me> to have some family affairs of one nature or other intermixed in them I did not offer to touch any of them, but have left them to your consideration, whither when I go to that part of the country I shall separate & preserve them <an> or whither you will have them burnt, <as> tho' I must own 'tis pittie they should except it be those (of which there are many) that relate to nothing but family affairs only.

I have placed <them> *everything* so, that now the good and the bad are distinguished and preserved from the weather, *by which* a great number have perished entirely. I shall <always be> ready to return those things that I have, when you please to command me. In the mean time am your most obliged humble servant,

Francis Blomefield.⁴

P.S. Mr Tuck let me take what I would out of the old chest that he had packed up, which were old & had been cast out, when some attorney looked over the wrightings, all but one large parcell <together> which was a survey of Buxton manor & other evidences concerning it of value, which I laid up among your evidences. If ever you come near Diss in Norfolk I shall be exceeding glad to see you & hope you will be so good as to call on me. <Please to let me know where I shall order.>

[Marginal note] See copy of the note with Mrs Amyas on the other side.⁵

1. Blomefield visited Oxnead Hall after the death of Sir William Paston, second Earl of Yarmouth, who died in debt. His son-in-law, Major Weldon, was disposing of the estate. The Hall was left to ruin shortly afterwards.

2. Later published as *Booke of the Foundacion and Antiquitye of the Towne of Greate Yermouthe*, ed. Charles Palmer (Great Yarmouth, 1847).

3. This is the first reference to the discovery of the 'Paston Letters'.

4. No further correspondence surviving.

5. *Journal and letter-book* f.34:-

A copy of the note left with Mrs Amyas at Oxnead in Norfolk for Major Weldon.

May.3.1735 Taken from Oxnead. A paper book in folio mss of which the title page is, Great Yermouthe a booke of the foundation and antiquitye of the saide towne.

An old mss on paper duodecimo of old arms.

A Pope's Bull with the lead seal there to affixed being a licence from Boniface the 9th to the Prior of the Holy Sepulchre at Thetford to appropriate to themselves Gresham Church in Norfolk.

A parcell of old deeds but none since Henry the 7th, of no use but as antiquities.

A parcell of old letters chiefly relating to the surrender of Norwich charter & the militia of Norfolk.

The will of Sir John Fastolf Kt. dated 1469.

Francis Blomefield.

39. William Toms to Francis Blomefield (f.34)

From Mr Toms.

Sir,

I received the drawing & proposals from your brother.¹ The drawing is very incorrect but I will help that in the engraving, as to the price I can't send 'till I find what time it takes up but depend will be as reasonable as possible. Your brother has given me but one hours time to answer you and look out the proofs. I have sent you some proofs of my work, which if you please to except they are at your service. I shall be as expeditious as possible to finish this plate, as soon as done will send you the proof & the lowest price. I am sir your most humble servant to command,
William Henry Toms.²

April 12.1735

I should be glad to know if you would have them after the best manner for they may be done to any price.

1. See Letter 34.

2. Reply Letter 47 (August 1735) see also Letters 35, 40, and 41.

40. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f.34)

To Mr William Henry Toms Engraver.

Sir,

I have daily expected to have heard from you for some time. I suppose you received my last of May 20th,¹ would begg your answer to it, and to send me a specimen of the plate & the charge of it,² and an answer to the contents of that letter, for I am in

haste to have some plates done that I have by me, intending to begin at Michaelmas next. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

My last informd you of the Diss Carrier.
Fersfield June 26.1735.

1. Letter 35.
2. Engraving 3.
3. No reply received, see Letter 41.

41. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f.34)

To the same.
July 21. [1735].
Mr Toms,

I have daily expected to have heard from you <but of one> *the disappointment of* which makes me trouble you with this 3d letter to request you would send me <some> the plate of the monument <at Holt> or some specimens of it,¹ *with the charge* and to let me know whether you can do my others for me or not, that if you can't I may look out for some other that can. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Engraving 3.
2. No reply preserved, see Letter 47.

42. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Tanner (f.35)

My Lord.

I hope <your Lordship> *you* will excuse <this trouble / me in> my troubling you with this. My not hearing from your Lordship since my two last letters¹ makes me afraid they may have miscarried some way or other, and what <gives> *makes* me <too much a umbrage for it> *apt to think so* is, your <Lord> letter to Mr Lloyd of April 28. in which you mentiond my design and by which I feard the copy of Diss Hundred <had> *was* not come safe to your hands, which I <had> sent with a letter inclosed dated April the 5th and was left by my brother at your Lordship's house in New Palace Yard Westminster.

Since that I <an> sent another to your Lordship in May last, to inform your Lordship that <the> the Diss Carrier settts up *weekly* at the Serjeants Head on Snowhill London by whom my <the> coppies would come to me safe, after your Lordship had perused them. I should take it as a great favour if you would honour me with a line or two to inform me if <my> they came safe. I am your Lordships most obedient humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

June 26.1735 Fersfield.

To the Right Reverend Thomas Lord Bishop of St Asaph, at his palace at St Asaph, by way of London.

1. The first is Letter 36, the second is not preserved.
2. This letter crossed with no.43 below, so no reply was necessary.

43. Thomas Tanner to Francis Blomefield (f.35)

St. Asaph. June 27. 1735.

Good Sir,

By the last post I received a letter from you dated April the 5th¹ directed to me in London, where I stayed 'till Aprill the 24th and then had all letters sent to me at London transmitted punctually to Christchurch Oxford till the 9th instant, when I sett out for this place. I had also a letter from the person that looks after my house at London by the same post that he had received a large bundle of papers, and wanted to know whither he should send them down hither to me. I have by this first return desired him to keep them safe till my return to Oxford in the beginning of September, unless you give other orders, which I have directed him to obey, his name is Mr James Fox Hatter in Union Street Westminster.

I am mighty sorry things have happened so perversly; for two winters together I carried up many of my Norfolk collections to London in expectation of having you[r] papers sent up to me there. None of these things are with me here so that I can do you no service that way 'till I gett again to them at Oxford. I dare say you are so exact that I shall find very little to improve or correct, but can say nothing of your method &c 'till I can see your papers. I shall be sorry if my not being able yet a while to peruse them should be any detriment to the public in delaying your putting the

same to the press, but I tell you my present situation and must leave you to stay or not as shall suit best with your own inclination and the calls of your subscribers. I heartily wish well to your design and am with great truth, sir your very faithfull friend and brother,
Thomas Asaph²

My service to Mr Thomas Martin. I have been easier about Mr Le Neve's papers because I hoped he would communicate them to you who will make the best use of them.

1. Letter 36, but see also Letter 42 which crossed with this.
2. Reply Letter 44.

44. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Tanner (f.36)

To the Right Reverend Thomas Lord Bishop of St Asaph at his palace in St Asaph by way of London.

July. 2<2>9. 1735 Fersfield.

My Lord,

I had the honour of yours of June the 27th¹ and the very day before had wrote to your Lordship² concerning the papers of Diss Hundred, <a> which to my great satisfaction I find <by> are safe at London. I <hope> am resolved not to publish 'till your Lordship hath inspected them, and informed me whither you approve of the method, and hope you<r Lordship> will be so good as to do it as soon as you[r] conveniency will serve. <I was / shall choose to stay so> for after that is done I will speedily begin. <And> I hope if you[r] Lordship approves of the work, that you will <permitt> *allow* me to dedicate it to your Lordship, <than which nothing can be more honour the> *which* permission <of which> would be as great an honour as I can *either* wish or desire.

I am sorry I should give your Lordship so much trouble, but hope <I> it will be excused, <and the> it being impossible for me to help miscarriages of this kind. I suppose the papers were laid by and forgott by the <servant> *person* that took them, my brother telling me he deliverd them with his own hand. I returnd home but yesterday else had answerd your <Lordships> letter before now. Hope that when you have examined the papers your Lordship will be so kind as to send them by the Diss <Carr> London Carrier. I am your Lordships most obedient humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

1. Letter 43.

2. Letter 42.

3. This probably crossed in the post with Letter 48 and the reply is therefore Letter 49.

45. Francis Blomefield to Beaupre Bell (f.37)

To Beaupre Bell junior Esquire at Beaupre Hall Norfolk.

July 2<2>5, 1735 Fersfield.

Dear Sir,

I have received your last letters¹ and can't omitt thanking you for them. I have inclosed some papers of queries according to

your desire which I would thank you to lay out & take in for me.² Mr Parkin hath every thing that we can all make up both of mine, Mr Le Neves & his own in relation to Clacclose Hundred, that being one of the hundreds he is so kind as to finish for me, <the is papers> *he can* giv<ing>e *you* a particular account of the Half Hundred *as* becoming independent on the Hundred. I have sent you every<thing> *word* <material> out of Domsday <in> relating to <the whole of Clacclose omitting only the account of Stadiset>*it*.

I am now on a project of setting up a press in my own house and printing my book my self being treating with a good workman³ about it, but would not have you take any notice of it till I am determined. I mention it because I should like to have your opinion what you think of it. Nothing would be a greater satisfaction than that you would once let me live in hopes of seeing you at Fersfield, which *favour* I now earnestly request you would grant me & should think my self vastly obligd if I be not denied. Mr Parkin I know is in hopes you will answer his queries. I am really your most sincere *& obliged* friend & humble servant, Francis Blomefield.⁴

I should take it as a favour if you would send me word if you could be at leizure to draw me a few seals &c draughts for my engraver to work from, if I sent you the originals.

1. These letters are apparently lost.
2. Blomefield frequently sent copies of his parochial questionnaire (Letter 294) to his friends for onward transmission to the incumbents of their neighbouring parishes.
3. Nicholas Hussey who was then working at Bury St Edmunds.
4. Reply Letter 75.

46. Francis Blomefield to Charles Parkin (f. 37)

To the Reverend Mr Parkyn Rector of Oxborough Norfolk.
July 25. 1735 Fersfield
Dear Sir,

Inclosed I have sent you every word as it is in Domsday of Grimeshoe Hundred and would begg of you to forward the inclosed parcell¹ to Mr Bell. I did not seal the outside paper because you will find in it all Clacclose Hundred verbatim from

Domsday which if you have it not at length already, I would begg of you to copy it before you send it, and when you send it & to seal the outside paper. I shall be at Norwich Assises getting there on Wedensday & returning on Thursday, where I hope I shall meet you. I almost fancy I shall print at home, but shall resolve at

Norwich next week. Pray my *own & wifes* service <to> to <Miss Parkyn> *your* good sister & all friends. We hope we shall see both you & her at Fersfield before Michaelmas. I am your most obligd sincere friend & brother,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. The parcel contained Letter 45, some copies of Blomefield's questionnaire (Letter 294), and a transcript of Domesday for Clacklose Hundred (see Letter 75).
2. No reply known.

47. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 38)

To Mr W.H. Toms.
August 9th. 1735. Fersfield.
Sir,

This very day I received your proofs,¹ for which I thank *you*, and assure you I like them so well, that whatever I have in your way to do (which I expect will be a good deal) I design you should do it, not doubting but you will be as good as your word in charging me as low as you can afford. I was surprized to find your inclosed letter dated April the 12,² since which time I have sent you no less than 3 <letters - viz> one of May the 20th, another June the 26, & another of July the 21.³ I should be glad to know if you received them. The contents of the 1st were to let you know that you might send any parcell to me by the Diss Carrier from the Serjeant's Head on Snowhill, one Banks is there one week & one James Clark the other, and if you direct them for me to be left at Mr Darby's an Apothecarys in Diss it will come safe. I mention this fearing the letter was not received. The 2 last were only to desire you to hasten the plate & send me five or six proofs of it, which I hope you will do very soon.

I shall be at a loss to know the charge of each plate, for my subscribers insist always <in> on knowing the charge. Supposing therefore I engrave my churches in plates exact the bigness of the prospects you sent me, particularly Cowes Castle, and have them done well, what will be the charge of such a plate? If I send you up the draughts of monuments, seals &c upon seeing them you can send me the charge of each & I may manage it that way, <for my subscribers must be upon certainty with me>.

My brother will be up at London about 6 weeks hence. I hope to hear from you <before then> & have a proof of the plate before *then* & he shall pay for it & bring you some more to do, & upon seeing them you can send the price of each back by him. You may always send 2 prizes, how it may be done in the very best manner & how in a midling way, but to have any bad plates I will not give them room in my book. I am your very humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

I design you should roll them off for me.

1. Proofs of Engraving 3 (see Letter 34).
2. Letter 39.
3. Letters 35, 40, 41.
4. No reply preserved, see Letter 52.

48. Thomas Tanner to Francis Blomefield (f. 39)

St Asaph August 5. 1735.

Good Sir,

Having writ to you how the case in fact relating to your papers was as far as I knew upon my first coming hither¹ I did not give you the trouble of an answr to yours of June the 26.² being able to say no more than in my former upon that subject. I do not know where the fault lies, but am sorry for the uneasiness that mistake has given you. I shall (God willing) return to Oxford in the 1st or 2d week in September and will take care by some friend to get your papers down thither by that time, when my first bussness shall be to overlook the same & compare them with some of my collections, which I fear will add very little to what your great pains & exactness have putt together, and will take care that they be safely returnd by the Diss Carrier.

When I have seen your papers & method I will give you an answer about the dedication, which in general, as much as I value you & your design, I have avoided in many instances, and my relation to Norfolk being now ceased, whether such respectfull remembrance of me may not give offence, or whether among the great folks now among you, you may not find a better patron, is what you ought to consider, and will do it I dare say before you come to a resolution on this point. Whatever is most for the

advantage of your work will be most agreeable to sir your very affectionate friend & brother,
Thomas Asaph.³

In my last news paper I saw advertised *A Description of the Diocese of Norwich* by a Gentleman of the Inner Temple.⁴ There surely can be no great matter about 1250 parishes in a 12d book. My service to Mr Martin & all my old brethren in your neighbourhood, who are so kind as to remember me.

1. Letter 43.
2. Letter 42.
3. No reply sent, see Letter 49.
4. *A description of the Diocese of Norwich: or the Present State of Norfolk and Suffolk*, (London, 1735), which had 68 octavo pages including title page and preface.

49. Thomas Tanner to Francis Blomefield (f. 39)

To the Reverend Mr Blomefield at Fersfield near Diss Norfolk by the Ipswich Bagg.

Christchurch September 19. 1735

Sir,

I would not <ad>omitt by the first post, to let you know that your valuable collections about Diss Hundred came safe to my hand yesterday, and that I had pleasure of reading the same last night as long as my eyes would hold open, and will go thro' them all as fast as possibly my other business will permitt, and shall be glad of your directions which way to return them safe to you again. I came hither out of North Wales but on Saturday night last, and am your loving friend and brother,

Thomas Asaph.¹

1. Reply Letter 50. Blomefield added a footnote to this letter: 'See my Lords answer p. 43' [i.e. Letter 53].

50. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Tanner (f. 40)

To the Bishop of St Asaph.
Fersfield October 9th 1735.

My Lord,

I had the honour of your's at my return home,¹ on Saturday last, for which I return <you> my utmost thanks. <and a> I am exceeding glad to find you<r Lordship> can with any pleasure examine my collections, as your Lordship was so kind in your last to tell me you can do, and can't forbear again desiring that you would be pleased either to add or diminish as you think proper, being sensible they may not be <so> correct or digested <such a> in the best manner of <both> *which* I am sure I can't have so great a judge as your Lordship.

I have considered as your Lordship directed me, and still hope that I may have the <honour> *satisfaction* of dedicating my work to your Lordship, assuring your Lordship I shall esteem it a greater honour to have <your name> you, my patron, than <any other man> the greatest man living, <he all> my notion being always this, that it is more <honour> *credit* for any author to have <a man> a patron, that is a good *judge* of <the> *his* work, (<all> which the whole world know your Lordship to be) than the greatest man whatever, who perhaps knows nothing of the matter. As to your Lordships relation to Norfolk being ceased, I dare say, tho' we have not the happiness to have your Lordship preside over us (which still we hope for) yet I presume to say, <the memory of> your Lordships memory is still as fresh & as much valued by the clergy of this diocess, as it was the first day you left us, and <also> so far will such a dedicaton be from giving offence <to any> that I <dare presume> *venture to* say many hundreds of my subscribers will value the book much more upon that account, for all which reasons I can't omitt intreating your Lordship to honour me with this liberty.

I have purchased a press and gott a *good* workman, whom I hire by the year, to print <it> for me in my own house by which means I shall have the oversight of the press my self, which tho' it be a great charge at first, yet will be a continual satisfaction to me for by this means I shall be certain that neither my self nor subscribers can be imposed upon, by stollen copies which is too often the case in such subscriptions *the printer oftentimes printing more than agreed for & returning them on the authors subscribers*.

I design (God willing) to begin the work with the new year the 1st for January, to be published <about> *in* the <beginning> *middle* of February. When you[r] Lordship hath perused Diss Hundred, please to return it by London by the Diss Carrier who

setts up at the Serjeants Head on Snow Hill <London>, there are 2 of them, James Clark one week & one Banks another, *& please to direct them to be left at Mr Darby's an Apothecary in Diss*. And I will take care <upon receipt of them> to send up Giltcross Hundred, the next in order for the press. I am your Lordship's most obligd & obedient humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Letter 49.
2. Reply Letter 53. Blomefield added a footnote to this letter: 'See my Lords answer p45.' [this is a mistaken reference to Letter 53 f.43].

51. Francis Blomefield to Henry Briggs (f. 41)

To the Reverend Dr Briggs Rector of Holt.
Fersfield September 16. 1735.
<Sir> Reverend Sir,

My not being able hitherto to give <you> any satisfactory account of my promises to you was the occasion of my not wrighting before <now>, which I dare say your good judgment will allow to be a reasonable excuse.¹ <Wh> With much ado and *a* great many wiles, I can tell you I have now in my custody the original grant to Augustine Briggs under seal of the Office² <and every thing> *most* neat & fair, and the pedigree of Fountain, Briggs, and Beaupre, in one roll, most beautifully done. I can't send you any account of them, having promised faithfully to transcribe nothing from them nor <never> to part with them out of my sight, only upon such terms as I received them, so that I will wait on you <about a week> soon after Michaelmas, and then you may see them, and if you like them have them <or else [illegible] *&*> if not then I <can> can return them, having taken them on that score.

I have inclosed a specimen of the engraving, to desire you to compare *it* forthwith with the monument³ & see if every letter be alike <that> & then send it me again, <by this bagg if possible> to have it finished up. I don't doubt but you will like the engraving, only we always have the inscriptions compared to be exact, before we have the plate finished. I can't say what the plate comes to more <not having had my bill yett> *than I accounted till it be finished & then will bring you some copies of it*. I have a drawing

of the monument you was so good as to subscribe *for* in St Peters Norwich⁴ *doing* which when done I'll take care of.

I should be glad if your oppertunity would permitt if you could gett in my queries for your hundred against my coming.⁵ I have lately happend of abundance *of* curiosities concerning the towns in it, <among which> *as of* severall originall letters of importance, of Augustine Briggs & others of your family, more ancient, all which after I have used them I design for you, if you'll accept them.

I have at last resolved to print my history at home in my own house & have purchased a press and all materials accordingly, which indeed <at first> putts me to a large expence, but hope that I shall make it answer in the end <*tho' I would of*?>. By this means I am sure <of one, & that is/this> of doing justice to my subscribers, it being impossible there should be any imposition upon them by any printer or booksellers have a property in the copy.

As to Mr Plumstead's grant,⁶ I think it a very fine one <and very particular> & such as well deserves a plate, it recording that his ancestors were of antiquity & gentility, as really they were, for I have ancient deeds of them very early, I am sure up to Henry the 1st and one I beleive near Rufus, all which I design to present him <them> when I return his grant, which if he would have done exactly I must send it to my graver, who will do it <must> *much* best from the originall. <If he likes> the expence (which were it my own case I should not stick at) it will cost at least 3 guineas, *(& will engage it shall not exceed half another)* <& a quar?> which I desire you would take of him for me if he would have it done.

I own to you I could like to proceed in my plates as I have done in my book to take nothing 'till the work it done, by [sic] my press & charges are so great that I am forced to do otherwise. If he will have it done,⁷ please to send me word, <how> if he hath any other benefices than Birston, what degree he took in the university, and of what college, and begg of him to draw up his own pedigree as far as he can & send it me. I dare *say* he will be pleased with the old things of his own family. I would not have faild waiting on you when I was at Melton, but had women with me & very little time. I am your most obligd humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁸

My service to your good lady. I design to set my press to work on Plow Monday in order to publish January about the 12 of

February. Mr Plumstede may have it done for a guinea & half or 2 guineas but then it will be in such a manner that it will be neither a credit to him or to my book.

1. This letter presumably follows a meeting between Blomefield and Briggs sometime after Letter 33, and refers to the pedigree of the Briggs family mentioned there.
2. The seal of the College of Arms. Augustine Briggs (1617-1684) was a noted Royalist and Sheriff of Norfolk following the Restoration.
3. The monument of Edmond Hobart, Engraving 3.
4. The monument of Augustine Briggs, Engraving 4.
5. A number of replies to Blomefield's questionnaires (Letter 294) collected by Henry Briggs, are preserved with the Frere MSS. for Holt Hundred in the N.R.O., including Letters 249, 252, and 254.
6. The Reverend Thomas Plumstead, Vicar of Briston near Holt.
7. This plate was apparently never ordered.
8. Reply Letter 90 below.

52. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 42)

To Mr. Toms.
September 16. 1735.
Sir,

I received the proof, have sent *it* to be examined, and then will let you know if it wants any alteration.¹ I have inclosed a drawing,² which I would have placed in this manner all in one half sheet, *& on one plate*, first the priest, next the stone, & then the knight, under the priest place these words,

William du Bois, <founder of> priest. <died about 1352>.

Under the knight this,

Sir Robert du Bois Knight died in 1311.

and upon the top of all the plate these words

In the Church of <St Andrew> Fersfield in Norfolk.

To give you a perfect idea of the drawing the first is pretty exact only the *edge of the* hands must rest upon the breast, which they do *not* in the draught. Those 2 broken effigies by him were 2 priests praying and that at the feet was a buck the crest of the family, tis cutt in stone, powderd with ermin & a black cross on the breast, the arms <bein> of his family being ermine a cros sable, <& the whole is in an arch in the north chancell wall.>³ The 2d is

exact & needs no alteration, being the cover of a stone coffin under which he possibly may lie on the chancell floor by the arch, the third lies in an arch of the same nature under the south isle wall and is all cutt out of one peice of <wood> oak.

The drawing is pretty exact only in the following things, the edge of his hands must rest on his breast bending a little more on the round towards the cross which should be placed a little lower to the swordward. The pillows he rests on must rest on the plank he lies on, and the head of the buck on which his feet are placed should turn up something more as <tho> if it layd in the arch & could not lye down for the wall att the backside *of the arch*. His spurrs are broken off as are the horn of the buck, but the shanks of the spurrs should appear more than in the draught. *The arms are Bois: erm[ine] a cros s[able] impaling Latimer g[ules] a cros floree or, a labell of 3 arg[ent] and one painted on the first pillow his head lies on, <but if you> but if you can't get them in perfectly there as I could wish you could, place them as in the draught.*

Please to finish this as soon as you can for I shall want this for it belongs to the first part of my book as also another

plate that I am about procuring in the same church.⁴ I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁵

1. The Hobart monument, Engraving 3, see Letter 47.
2. The duBois monument in Fersfield church, Engraving 5.
3. Marginal note at this point 'The letter sent varies in a few words but are of the same import with this'.
4. The Blomefield monument in Fersfield church, Engraving 6.
5. No reply received, see Letter 56 below.

53. Thomas Tanner to Francis Blomefield (f. 43)

To the Reverend Mr Blomefield &c.
Christ Church Oxford October 31.1735.
Good Sir,

After having run over your collections about Diss Hundred with great satisfaction,¹ and taken the liberty you allowd me of altering or adding to the same as occurrd to me, by Barnes one of our Oxford Carriers who putts up at the Kings Head in the Old Change, on Monday last I remitted the same carriage paid, with strict directions that they should be conveyed to the Serjeants Head on Snow Hill for the Diss Carrier. These people have been hitherto very carefull of what I have entrusted them with and I hope will not now fail me.

The respect I have for you and my love to Norfolk and any design which may be for the credit of that county, induce me to submit to what I have refused many others, your dedicating it to me, if upon further thoughts you shall <nor> *not to find it to your* prejudice and not think of a better patron. Your charge will be something more at first in getting down a press and good printer, and making conveniencies in your house for the same, but I beleive your book will be workd off more correctly to the satisfaction of your self and your readers.

There is an expression which runs pretty much thro' your account of incumbents, which I could wish you would alter, i.e. that A.B. resigned to C.D. which can scarce be said strictly but in cases of exchange, for all resignations are to be made to the ordinary, who may accept or refuse the same, so that it would be better I conceive to say, that *C.D. succeeded on the resignation of A.B.* or the like.

Is there no compassing a mapp of every hundred or as your
hundreds are but small of 1,2, or 3 putt into a sheet together with
the roads, distinctions of parish churches, townships & hamlets
and other civil and ecclesiastical

divisions? I am told there is a very exact man this way who lives about Wickham Market & is now about a map of Suffolk.² I am broke in upon by company & business, and so must omitt some other things, which I have sometimes come into my head about your work, and which at leisure you will be troubled with, from sir your assured friend & brother,
Thomas Asaph.³

When you send Giltcross if it be left with Barne's Warehouse Keeper it will come as soon and safe to me as any way I can think of.⁴

1. Reply to Letter 50 above.
2. John Kirby of Wickham Market surveyed Suffolk from 1732-4. In 1736 he published a map of Suffolk (*D.N.B.*).
3. Reply Letter 65.
4. Footnote by Blomefield:- '1735. November 7th
Received my collections of Diss Hundred back again from my Lord of St Asaph, with his approbation, alteration, & additions to every town in his own hand'.

54. Edmond Newdigate to Francis Blomefield (f. 44)

To Mr Blomefield &c.
Walsingham September ult[im]o. 1735.
Sir,

I have left with Dr Briggs one of your printed letters on the backside of which you will find I have procured for you severall subscribers.¹ I have also given him many things for you as private & publick paintings on glass, epitaphs &c. Could we have had the pleasure of seeing you at Holt as we expected I should have been enabled by your instructions to have procured more for you but was obliged to lay aside the further persuit of those things because I was too sensible that I gave my self more trouble in my enquirys than I otherwise should have done could I have had an insight into your method. But if any of those which I have already done be of any service to you I shall not think my labour lost. I beleive there are many things in this town worth your notice, I have lately heard of some armour in a house particularly a fine old bow and arrow, a very large sword &c. If I can be of any further service to you, you may command your humble servant,
Edmond Newdigate.²

P.S. Near this town are severall Roman ways, Wighton about 2 miles from hence, is a fine fortification of above 400 years.

1. This was as a result of Blomefield's questionnaire (Letter 294), which also included a request for the names of subscribers, rather than his proposals.
2. Reply Letter 55 below.

55. Francis Blomefield to Edmond Newdigate (f. 44)

To Dr Newdigate at Walsingham.

Fersfield October 5. 1735.

Good Sir,

This day I received from the worthy Dr Briggs your papers which you was so kind as to collect for me for which I could not omitt returning you immediate thanks by the letter,¹ and assure you that I should think my self guilty of ingratitude if I should omitt doing of it in a publick manner at a more proper oppertunity.² I heartily thank you for helping me to the subscribers, and hope that in any thing that hence forward may occur, you will not forgett me. I am sensible by your papers the great pains you have taken to serve me, & wish it was in my power to return a better recompence than bare thanks not at all doubting, but that the will, will be accepted by you for the deed. I am good sir your most obedient humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

N.B. You are fixed in the best town in the county for antiquities such as old deeds, rolls, books, &c. I shall precisely publish my 1st no. for January about February the 12th. <It being at work>

1. Presumably these papers were received together with Letter 54, to which this is a reply.
2. Blomefield did not acknowledge Newdigate's assistance in his Introduction to Volume 1, but may have intended to incorporate an acknowledgment in his account of Walsingham.
3. No further correspondence surviving.

56. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 45)

To Mr Toms.

October 13. 1735.

Sir,

I hope you *have* received my draughts for the last plate¹ & will do it as soon as possible. I have examined the Holt plate.² & like it well, nothing is wanting but this motto in the scrawl, Virtus est dei, under the arms. Please to roll off <about> a dozen copies, and send me them and the plate, by the Diss Carrier, & <my> the charge of it. I shall not come to Holt of a long time in my History, for which reason I would have the plate by me. I shall not be in London before some time in December, tho' expected to have been up this month. Have gott two more plates in a readiness for you, which I will send up as soon I have notice by letter that you have received the other,³ <In> which I would have you do as soon as possible. You know how to send me them by the Diss Carrier. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

<You must not omitt doing the plate you have forthwith & the 2 next that I send.> I find it difficult to get friends to draw for me.

1. The drawing of the du Bois monuments in Fersfield Church, Engaving 5, sent together with Letter 52.
2. The Hobart monument, Engraving 3.
3. One of the drawings in readiness was of the Blomefield monument, Engraving 6.
4. No reply received, see Letter 57.

57. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 45)

Sir,

I desired the bearer¹ to call on you not having heard whither you received the last plate or my letter since,² if you have not, the Holt plate wants nothing but / Virtus est dei / to be inserted in the scrawl under the arms.³ Please to send that plate by this bearer & a dozen copies, and the charge of it <& I will order the payment. I have been at a> and what a 1000 <plates to> *copies of* each per <sheet> *plate* will come to, *for* the paper & rolling off. I have now with much difficulty gott a friend who is

draw<n>ing me half a dozen plates,⁴ which when finished I will send up together. Desire you would hasten that you have because I shall want it at my first beginning. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁵

<Oct> November 9. 1735.

1. This letter was delivered by Nicholas Hussey during his visit to London to purchase the press.
2. The drawings of the du Bois monument (Engraving 5) which were sent with Letter 52, and Letter 56.
3. The monument of Edmond Hobart in Holt church, Engraving 3.
4. Thomas Martin, see Letter 116.
5. No reply received, see Letter 80 below.

58. Benjamin Mackerell to Francis Blomefield (f. 46)

To the Reverend Mr Blomefield &c.
Norwich October 17. 1735.
Reverend Sir,

It has been in my mind to write to you a considerable time, but Mr Carlos informed me that you came pretty often to town. If you will please to give your self the trouble of coming to my house I may inform you of that which may be serviceable to you, I mean as to your Norfolk History. I live opposite to the Guild Hall in the Market and shall be glad to have a little conversation with a lover of antiquity as I have been myself for many years. I am well known to Mr Thomas Martin & Mr Perkyns of Oxborough and wish I could nominate more of our taste. Tho' I am at present a stranger to you I know a few hours conversation will make us good friends, desiring you not to miss the 1st oppertunity you have of calling upon me (which I beg may be in an afternoon) for I am infirm and unfitt for every thing and at this present have the gout so much in my right hand that I *can* scarce hold a pen in it, so that I tell you again when you come next to town I shall expect to see you & in the mean time I am sir your humble servant,
Benjamin Mackerell.¹

1. Reply Letter 59.

59. Francis Blomefield to Benjamin Mackerell (f. 46)

To Mr Benjamin Mackerell near the Guild Hall in Norwich.
Fersfield November 4. 1735.

Good Sir,

I received your kind letter,¹ for which I thank you, and shall make bold to call on you some afternoon at my next coming to Norwich, which I expect will be very soon. Mr Parkyn who is now with me, gives his service to you, and no longer than last week <he mention'd you to me> Mr Martin mentioned you to me & wondred I had not been acquainted with you. I am glad to find we have another brother in the county for there are but few of us. I am your most humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Letter 58.

2. No reply preserved, see Letters 73 and 74.

60. Francis Blomefield to Doctor Gaylard (f. 47)

To Doctor Gaylard at Mr Baylys at the White Horse & Half Moon by the Kings Bench in Southwark.

Sir,

Mr Nicolas Hussey my friend <being> *having* engaged to print a <work> *work* for me at my own house, I desired him to look out for materials, and find he hath applied to you, by your letter,¹ which he hath shown me, for which reason I could not omitt wrighting to you and hope we may have a better correspondence afterwards. I <am about> hope you will serve him with such materials as he wants as cheap as anyone <for> and have <the> *so* requested him to come up and furnish himself, and bring me an account and I will answer the mony.

I shall have occasion to lay out some copies in London, should be obligd to you if you would recommend any one to me, without taking notice to any one, having had some tr[ouble] with a person in the City,² that I did not like to agree with.

I have sent you <a hare which I desire> half a peice by Mr Hussey to drink my health & success to my work, which I desire you would accept, and had come up myself to you if I was not under some fear of the small pox, which I hear is now pretty rife in town, <if you> but hope I shall live to see you in summer. I shall

certainly want <some>something more in this way if I live, & hope you will be as serviceable as you can to me, which I shall always gratefully acknowledge, and shall be willing to recompence you for. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

November 8. 1735. Fersfield.

Please to direct to Francis Blomefield Rector of Fersfield near Diss in Norfolk. By the Ipswich Bagg to be left at Mr Darbys an apothecary in Diss.

1. Not preserved.
2. Possibly a reference to James Bettenham, see Letter 37.
3. Reply Letter 77.

61. Francis Blomefield to Stephen Norris (f. 48)

To the Reverend Mr Norris in St Stevens Churchyard in Norwich.
Fersfield November 3. 1735.
Reverend Sir,

I had not omitted wrighting to you so long, had not the great bussness I have had in procuring my press & the daily expectation of my coming to Norwich been the cause of it. But to tell you truly am now forced to omitt it no longer, to begg the favour of you to inform me by the return of this post, where <your son Mr> Mr Anthony now is. I have sent a letter by the Ipswich Bagg long ago¹ directed to him at Mr Edward Jarnegans in Fetherstone Building Holborn London, <and> *one* which was the manner I used to direct in, but have received no answer, which makes me impatient to hear if he hath removed his lodgings, or where he is now, it being to request some favours of him in our way in London. Pray give my humble service to good Mr Cook,² I was in expectation I should have had the pleasure of seeing him and you this summer, but was disappointed of it. I expect to be in Norwich very soon when I shall make bold to call on you, but hope you'll trouble your self <with> to give me a line or two in answer to this, which will add to the many favours already conferred upon your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

1. Apparently not preserved.
2. Presumably Thomas Cook of Norwich, an early subscriber to Blomefield's *History*.
3. No further correspondence surviving, but see Letter 62. Footnote by Blomefield:-
'Received answer November 5 that he was at Mr Jernegans in Fetherstone Buildings to be at Norwich at Xmass, in London to be called to the Gown to practice as a Common Lawyer.'

62. Francis Blomefield to Anthony Norris (fols. 48-9)

Fersfield November <11>12. 1735.

To Mr Antony Norris at Mr Jernegans &c

Dear Sir,

I wrote some time since to you¹ but receiving no answer made the [sic] think you might have removed your lodgings & so not mett with my letter, which after so long time I last week requestd your good father to answer me.² He informs me you are still att Mr Jernegans, upon which I could no loger [sic] forbear wrighting & hope I may wish you joy of your gown, to which I hear you are or will be soon called, and hope that you may meet with the utmost success <in> *in practice*.

I can't omitt acquainting you that I have gott every thing ready to begin to print my work at January next, it being to be printed at Fersfield in my own house, having agreed with a good man to do it for me,³ by which means I shall correct it my self and every thing will pass under my own inspection. I have had my workman with me, who hath orderd a room which I am now fitting up for him, he <being> being to begin on Plow Monday. And having gott my copy returnd <for> *from* my Lord of St Asaph, who hath seen it & been very serviceable to me in it,

I am got in to a way that I shall exhibit great <new> numbers of old arms in cutts, and indeed this means shall make the work more compleat, than it could [MS. damaged.....] been. My subscribers now can not be imposed upon [.....] it in my power to assure them, (as I intend to do in an [.....]h January) that no copies shall be sold at a cheaper [.....] all be no single numbers whatever to be disposed of. [.....] come & see my office, and inform my subscribers of [.....] maintance of the certainty of the time of my publication. 'Tis [...] to tell you what great helps

have come in by my queries, sometimes having 20 or 30 sheets besides books, letters, records & papers, for a single hundred.

I should take it as a favour if you would enquire at your booksellers what Herne's Red or Black book of the Exchequer would cost me,⁴ it is an octavo & a thin one <only>. And to look into the Temple Church to see if any of the Gawdy's or Gaudie's have any memorials of their sepulture there & if they have to transcribe them. I have an account in that family of severall buried there. I shall think long to see you & talk with you a little antiquity. I am good sir your most sincere friend & servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁵

1. Apparently not preserved.
2. Letter 61.
3. Nicholas Hussey.
4. *Liber niger Scaccarii*, ed. Thomas Hearne (Oxford, 1728).
5. No further correspondence preserved.

63. Francis Blomefield to Edward White (f. 50)

To the Reverend Mr White at Great Yarmouth.

Fersfield November 12. 1735.

Good Sir,

Once more I make bold to trouble you, requesting the favour to hear whither you are still unmarried or married, well or ill, I may almost say, alive or dead, you having been so to me for near 12 months, tho' I have often wrotte to you.¹ I hope you will either let me hear from you or see you, the last of which would be most agr[MS damaged.....] almost afraid I have disoblged you in some what,th[.....] let me know my fault, for I protest I am ignor[.....] have heard that I am turnd printer, ha[.....] my own house to print my book at, and[.....] operator who begins to print for me next Pl[.....] middle of February. I shall publish No 1[.....]ain I shall no more have to wait the tedious delay [.....]anities either of printers or booksellers. Please to acq[.....]t my subscribers that you converse with of it. By this means I can assure all of them that there shall never be any copies sold cheaper than the subscriptions, which is the common bite, neither shall there be any single numbers sold, all which by this means, it will be in my own power to promise and which I design to advertise in January just before the publication.

I have mett with a fair noble folio Mss of the History of Yarmouth judiciously [com]piled in King James the <2d> *1st* time.² My Lord of St Asaph hath seen my copy & been very serviceable to me in adding some things, correcting others and making it as perfect as possible, & hath returnd the copy so that I shall not have to stay for that. I want to know if your bookseller have gott any more coppies subscribed for,³ pray send me word & tell him before I begin to publish sometime or other when my conveniency serves I will come and agree with him for the laying <them> out to that part of the country. I should be glad to hear of the Doctor. My service attends all friends in generall & am your sincere freind & brother,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

1. Apparently not preserved. The previous surviving letter from Blomefield to White was No. 26, dated 12 December 1733.

2. See Letter 38, note 2.

3. George Haliday, bookseller of Great Yarmouth.

4. Reply Letter 64.

64. Edward White to Francis Blomefield (f. 50)

December 10. 1735.

Received answer,¹ he was lately married an excuse for not wrighting sooner, to Miss Royall.² Our bookseller³ hath gott some subscriptions the no. here will increase when you begin to publish, going to house keeping invitation to a bed at anytime,
Edward White.⁴

1. Reply to Letter 63.
2. This was possibly White's second marriage, see Letter 26.
3. George Haliday, bookseller of Great Yarmouth.
4. Footnote by Blomefield: 'Congratulatory letter returned December 24'.

65. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Tanner (fols.51-2)

To the Right Reverend Thomas Lord Bishop St Asaph.

November 17. 1735 Fersfield.

My Lord,

I received your kind letter,¹ and my Diss Hundred papers very safe, with you notes, for which I am not capable of <ever returning> returning sufficient thanks, but shall endeavour to do it in the best manner I can, which is in exactly following them in all points, which your Lordship may depend upon. I can't express the satisfaction it is to me that you Lordship ys so kind as to permitt me to dedicate it to you. So far am I from thinking of any other patron, that I look upon it as my great happiness to *have* one, that I should choose above all mankind.

I have gott <my> *a* press down and <have> agreed with a workman who hath hired the next house to me,² and is to begin at Xmas, so that I am resolved to see every thing done to my mind. I have <agreed with> *found* a wood cutter in London³ <for to cutt what I want in that way> & <find> *knowe* that there may be some things done pretty well & not very dear.

I would gett a mapp of each hundred if I could, but find the expence will be so much to have them actually surveyd, that I dare not under take, having ventured a very large sum upon the undertaking already, but hope that if I should live to finish it, that

I may prevail <upon the man> *upon him* that hath done Suffolk to do Norfolk in the same way,⁴ <it> *Suffolk* being the most exact thing I ever saw. I shall endeavour to gett what ichnographys I can of large churches, & point out the monuments in them. It being what I can do my self pretty <quick and> exact, <and may have them on wood without much expence,> & where the churches are small &c will measure them, it being very convenient <& what will conduce much> to <Kno> preserve their bigness.

In the case of incumbents, what your Lordship observed is certainly so, so that I have *& will* alterd it every where. I hope whatever your Lordship thinks in relation to my work you will be so good as to communicate <it to me>. I shall omitt the charters wholly,⁵ the copies are very different in the registers I have seen, those from Sir Edmund Bacon's I coppied⁶, but think there is no necessity to print them. I will examine the institution books in those points where <y>our catalogue*s* <and mine> differ. I suspect I have made mistakes in them not having had <sufficient> time to collate them exactly.

I hope in every town that your Lordship can, you will give me Domsday of Norwich,⁷ which I have never seen & the differences of the Valors.⁸ I should be glad to know how many there are & when made, I taking it that there were *only* 3 in all. I am at a loss sometimes for procurations & syn[o]d[als], the rectors themselves giving me sometimes a wrong account. Should be glad to know what each town was laid to the Parlement tax & what it is now laid to the King's tax.⁹

I will endeavour to get what good churches I can engraved but doubt I shall not gett many, I hope to have Diss of which I have taken an ichnography since your last. I design to send up to my wood cutter a church <of> or two to know what the expence will be as your Lordship <ord> hinted for such wood cutts, for they wood [sic] preserve them very well. What I have said of Ralph de Diceto I have from Mr Neve's papers who quotes Dugdale's History of St Pauls 2. edition p.10 & p.501.¹⁰ I have not the book, if your Lordship hath, should be glad to know if he is said there to be of Disca or Disce in Suffolk.

The Image of Hipocrisy is an originall manuscript of Skelton's own hand, which Mr Martin tells me he hath now by him at Palgrave & came out of the Ashwellthorp Library.¹¹ Fersfield now pays 1s synodals & 5s procurations. I did once transcribe the parcell of lands belonging to Thetford, but suppose before my

studdy was burnt,¹² should be glad of a copy if it be not too much trouble.

I have sent part of Giltcross, viz. Ken[ninghall], Lophams, Norton, Garboldesham, Gatesthorp, & Riddlesworth, but finding I <having> have only <my> foul copy of the rest of the Hundred which I fear would be difficult for you Lordship to peruse, I am transcribing them <as fast as possible> *in order to* to send them. Have orderd this parcell to be left with Mr Barnes's Warehouse Keeper <as your Lordship directed> & hope your Lordship will peruse them & be so good as to <al> correct them. <in the same.> I am <asai> your Lordships most obedient humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.¹³

The carriers sent me a false account calling it the Serjeants Head where they set up, & I find it is the Saracens Head on Snowhill.¹⁴

1. Letter 53
2. Nicholas Hussey
3. William Pennock, woodcutter of Aldersgate, London.
4. See Letter 53, note 2.
5. A number of the transcripts of the charters which appear in the first part of the manuscript of the history have been painted over in yellow wash and were omitted from the printed version (Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Norfolk 6).
6. One of three cartularies of Bury Abbey which were owned by Sir Edmund Bacon and were used extensively by Blomefield: 'Registrum Album' (B.L., Addl. MS. 14847), 'Registrum Curteys' (B.L., Addl. MS. 14848 and 7096) or 'Nigrum Registrum de Vestiario' (Cambridge University Library, Mm.4.19).
7. An early 14th century cartulary of Norwich Cathedral Priory, see H.M.C., *1st rept., appendix* (1870), p. 87.
8. The differences in value of each living according to the various taxations of ecclesiastical preferments.
9. Assessments for the purpose of national taxation made during the Civil War and following the Restoration.
10. W. Dugdale, *The history of St Paul's Cathedral in London* (London, 1716).
11. The library of Thomas Knyvett of Ashwellthorpe.
12. Blomefield apparently suffered a fire in his study about 1732 when he lost a number of note books. Volumes 2 & 3 of his Norfolk collections survive (Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Norfolk 4-5) with the note in the former 'In flammis periit volumen primum'.
13. No further correspondence, see Letter 84 to John Tanner.

14. Footnote by Blomefield:- 'The 14th day of December being the 3d Sunday after advent, at three a'clock in the afternoon died Thomas Tanner LL.D. Bishop of St Asaph and Canon of Christ Church Oxford, late Chancellor of Norwich, Archdeacon of Norfolk and Rector of Thorp by Norwich, my great friend and dear patron, whose loss to me is very great, as well as to the Church in generall, to the discipline of which he was a strict adherer, and to its poor of unlimited charity.

Heu! Lachrimandus obijt! Caetera, quae desunt, narrabit fama superstes.

Francis Blomefield clericus.'

66. William Pennock to Francis Blomefield (f. 53)

To Francis Blomefield.

Sir,

I have seen some specimens of arms & monuments you want to be cutt on wood, as for the monuments I can't make any certain price because they are various in size & work, but I have sent you 22 proofs of things of that kind that I have done with the price markt on them so that you may partly guess by the work of them where abouts your charge will be. The coats of arms I do one with another for a shilling a peice, the size of those I have sent, tho' when they were done for Guillims Heraldry,¹ they cost 14d a peice. As for shadowing the arms in their proper collours,² will not look so well as to be open as the patterns are, neither can some colours be represented on wood as they should be, such as Tenne & Sanguine, so sir if you conclude to have them done I'll take care to do them well, & for the monuments, old seals, or any thing of antiquity, I'll do as reasonable as I can &c.,
William Pennock.³

November. 13. 1735.

Liveth next door to the Adam & Eve in Jewing Street in Aldersgate Street London.

1. J. Guillim, *Display of Heraldry* (6th ed. London, 1724).

2. Reference to the conventional representation of heraldic tinctures in line drawings by vertical, horizontal, or diagonal shading and hatching.

3. Reply Letter 67.

67. Francis Blomefield to William Pennock (f. 53)

To Mr Pennock.

November. 17. 1735.

Sir,

I have received your proofs and like your cutting very well¹ but as I design to employ you, must keep them, to judge of what I send you in the progress of my work. I think you are something too dear in the arms, however would have you cutt them I sent you as soon as possible as also the other draughts and these inclosed -

the 4 coats &c - orders about Sir John Howard's effigies & arms.²

Now I find you think it best not to express the colours by shading, which I like as well provided there be letters cutt to show the colours &c which is easie done & will do as well, & if they can't be placed upon some bearing put them by the sides with a line leading to them. I don't doubt but you know how to place letters properly on those coats you have, if not having coppies at home will sketch them over again for you. Do them as soon as possible. I am &c.,

Francis Blomefield.³

Direct for me &c by Ipswich Bagg to be left at the Posthouse in Diss.

Let the arms all be of an exact size one with another & a very little bigger than the specimens. Begin with No. 1. of the arms & so go on as the numbers go and do these 2 inclosed first of all because they will be wanted first. When you have done these 2 & the first 12 of the arms send them down, by the Diss Carrier who setts up at the Saracens Head on Snowhill & comes weekly & always send a bill of charge with each parcell.

1. Enclosed with Letter 66.

2. The effigy of Sir John Howard, (Woodcut 1) and the capital letters H and M decorated with the arms of Howard and Scales (Woodcuts 2 and 3). It is not possible to identify which of the many coats of arms cut by Pennock for Blomefield are referred to in this letter.

3. No reply received, see Letter 97.

68. Francis Blomefield to Doctor Gaylard (f. 54)

To Doctor Gaylard.

[December 2. 1735?]¹

Good Sir,

I received you letter² by Mr Hussey with the specimens, and approve of them very well. Send this to desire you to gett the English <entire> *entire* and long primer <(of which 60li weight will be sufficient)> ready weighed up & the press taken down with all the frisquets, sheeps foot & hammer <tha> & see them safely packed up & sent to Blossoms Inn for Alderman Allen's Waggon of Bury. I will return you 20li by a neighbouring drover before Xmass day, they coming up against <that> that market. Send me down a bill of the charge *by him* & <befo> between Candlemass & Lady my brother will be up, whom I will order to pay you the rest, or whatever we shall want between that time, apprehending we shall best know when we come to work.

Please to put up as much Greek as will *compleat* 14 lines English at 20 ms broad <& ple> which will be the utmost I shall want. Please to order your own founder to cast 50li great primer without imperfections & 20 of a sort of the Saxon. <The Black as little quantity> As to the <Gothick> Black, I am not yet certain whither I shall want any, but if I do will let you know it in a week or 10 days. Pray send one pair of cases, (& balls stocks & nails) which I expect you will make me a present of with the letter, a pair of fools cap chases & a pair of demi, a yard of each <sort> sort of furniture, 200 of quoins *&*<see for> the composing sticks, <a pair of ball stocks with nails>.

Please to bid the cutter send me a folio fools cap head peice<s> with a fac[totum],³ both adorned with any old ruins, churches &c. A <couple> yard setting rule. Pray speak to Mr Eppingstall for a small barrell best ink, *&*<let him know that I can pay his order to Norwich with conveniency. <Pray tell my cutter> &c. I can but thank you for your assistance to Mr Hussey, and shall endeavour to make amends for any trouble in the affair. I design <you> *to* send you a small present of a fowl at Xmass, and should like to know where it shall be left for you. I hope you will see the things putt up well. I am &c.,
[Francis Blomefield].⁴

Pray hasten the cutter. Let the ink be sent with the rest of the things.

1. This letter is undated but appears in the letter-book with a memorandum of December 2. It is out of chronological sequence.

2. Letter 77, delivered by Hussey on his return from London.

3. The foolscap head-piece is not identified and was not used in Blomefield's *Essay*. The factotum is Woodcut 4.
4. No reply received, see Letter 70.

69. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Pigg (f. 55)

December 4. 1535 [i. e. 1735].

Sent a letter to Reverend Mr Pigg of Watton with a desire that he would lay out those for me, or take in any subscriptions for me, and to permitt me to insert his name in the advertisement <& to return the money> &c.¹

1 Footnote by Blomefield - 'Received answer December 10. 1735, is willing'.

70. Francis Blomefield to Doctor Gaylard (f. 55)

To Doctor Gaylard.
December 19. 1735.
Sir,

I endeavourd all I could to return you the 20li by the drover's as formerly I have done, but could not get a promise of above 15li payment.¹ For which reason I enquired & have found a friend that has drawn for me at 20 days sight, which I hope will do. Please to give me advice by the 1st post if the bill is accepted, tho' I dare say any bills of this merchant's will be paid with the utmost honour.

I desire you would send me old English or Gallick enough to sett two pages folio fools cap, and don't doubt but you will happen of it cheap & do for me your best. I shall send a turky to be left at Mr Bayleys² on Xmass eve & hope you will accept it from me. Pray hasten the Gallick down a[s] soon as possible for I want it. Hope you have sent the press &c tho' I have not heard as yet from Mr Hussey,³ but expect to send to Bury for it next week, having gott the house ready.

I have mett with a great loss since my last, the death of my great friend & patron the Bishop of St Asaph, but am in no wise retarded thereby so that I hope you will be as expeditious for me in any thing in your way as you can. Pray ask my wood cutter⁴ if he can cutt coins or no & let me know in your next which I hope I shall not fail of next post. I don't know but I may be in London on the beginning of February and have the pleasure of seeing you my self, am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁵

Enquire at Bear Key & you will find Mr Trolman.⁶

1. See Letter 68.

2. Gaylard's address was 'at Mr Bailey's by the White House and Half Moon by the Kings Bench in Southwark'.

3. Hussey was at this time still staying at 'Bayly's printing office' in Bury St Edmunds.

4. William Pennock.

5. No reply received, see Letter 86.

6. Footnote by Blomefield:- 'Sent a bill inclosed. Dated December 19. 1735 for 20li drawn by Roger Beart Merchant in Ipswich on Mr John Trolman Merchant London, 20 days after date'.

71. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Brewer (f. 56)

To Mr Brewer Stationer by Ludgate.

December 8. 1735. Fersfield.

Sir,

Mr Hussey my printer brought me severall specimens of paper as he informs me from you.¹ I have pitched upon the fools cap, which, he tells me, is to be made compleat 25 sheets in every quire & the outside quires taken off & 20 quire each ream at 8s a ream, which is indeed a large price, but hope it will not continue so long, and that you will afford it me as cheap as you can, assuring you that if you do, I shall take a great quantity of it. Pray send me 14 ream, as soon as possible you can, by Alderman Allen's Wagon of Bury, which setts up at Bloss[om]'s Inn, and <then> I will return you the money for it the week after Plow Monday, when I shall have a convenient opportunity to do it. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

Please to send me a letter when you send it that I may send for it to Bury, direct for Francis Blomefield, Rector of Fersfield to be left at the Post Office in Diss. By Ipswich Bagg.

1. See Letter 78.

2. Reply Letter 72.

72. Thomas Brewer to Francis Blomefield (f. 56)

London 20. December 1735.

Reverend Sir,

I received yours of the 10. instant¹ with an order for 10 [sic] ream printing fools cap paper at 8s per ream. The paper you mention is worth the money & I could take no less for it if you wanted never so much. I am your humble servant,
Thomas Brewer.²

1. Letter 71 above.

2. No further correspondence.

73. Benjamin Mackerell to Francis Blomefield (f. 57)

Norwich. December 12. 1735.

Letter from Mr Benjamin Mackerell concerning his publishing his book of coins - see it - and if I would have some plaster & seals. See the original on the file.¹

1. Reply Letter 74. The original is not preserved.

74. Francis Blomefield to Benjamin Mackerell (f. 57)

Fersfield. December 26. 1735.

Good Sir,

Your calculation is just in the main points,¹ you have omitted the working the 1st 500 copies which comes to 5li & indeed more if the coins are worked upon the leaves as they occur which will be very difficult there being so great a number so that it will be the best & cheapest way to have them engraved on whole plates & interspersed in the body of the work as near where they are mentiond as can be & by so doing they will be done at 88li or under, I am apt to think for 60. I can't think upon veiwing your hand well that you have less than 30 or 32 sheets in the book, no doubt but it must be a quarto, a folio would be of no use, because not portable, and that would be a great means to hinder the sale of them for collectors of coins would always carry one when they travell.

You are vastly out in the price of your book, each sheet of printing must be at 3 halfpence, 24 sheets 3s & every quarto page or plate of your cutts (which you quite forgot) must be 6d which will raise it to 1/2 a guinea at least. If you will have them single & putt them into the body, they'll swell your book to 60 sheets at least which at 3d a sheet is 15s a book, in the other way you would print out of pocket, but as 15s would be too much the other way is best & at 10s 6d book & 200 subscribers only you might venture to begin & print only 500 copies which say to cost you - the 200 subscribers raise 205li so that for 16li you have 300 copies which come to 157li 10s, so that a sale for half of them will pay you well.²

I find as to the plaster seals that the mould or concave ones are best graved from, begg you would take them as perfect as possible & not omitt any seals of Religious houses that you meet with in your search, and let me know if you have any design of putting forward your book before I shall see you for I would have you be cautious in drawing up your proposals.³ I am not

acquainted with a pewter graver tho' there are numbers in London & I will find you one out. Mr Pennock is my woodcutter, he lives in Jewing Street in Aldersgate Street but to deal freely with you as is always my way with all mankind, I would not have you send him any specimens as yet for he hath near 150 plates of mine under his hands now & I am afraid it might stop him in carrying them on speedily.

I hope to see Norwich in Plow Monday week when God willing I'll call on you. I have had the greatest loss imaginable, my dear friend and patron & daily assistant the good Bishop of St Asaph whose loss to me is irreparable. I am your most &c.,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

Can't send copy of Domsday yet. The plates are your own so can republish at any time.

1. Presumably this calculation was contained in the original of Letter 73.
2. Marginal note by Blomefield:-

Engraving	80. 00. 00
Printing	26. 12. 00
Paper -	12. 10. 00
Proposals -	<u>03. 00. 00</u>
	121. 12. 00
200 subscribers	<u>105. 00. 00</u>
300 copies for	<u>016. 12. 00</u>
3. *An Account of Mr John Kirkpatrick's Roman and Other Coins* was advertised to be included with Mackerell's *A new catalogue of books in the Public Library of Norwich* (Norwich, 1732) but appears not to have been published then, or later.
4. No further correspondence.

75. Beaupre Bell to Francis Blomefield (f. 58)

To Reverend Mr Blomefield.
December 10. 1735.
Dear Sir,

I am highly obligd to you for the transcript of Domsday which I received in due time,¹ but have not had leizure till now to return my best thanks, which I desire you to accept. Indeed the preparation for my own book engrosses all my time.² But I was last week at Lyn where I had the pleasure of seeing a great number of records relating to that Corporation in the hands of Mr Cooper a

painter there, who has taken the pains to make collections from many of the year books, transcribed the epitaphs in the churches, drawn the arms on windows &c, has severall engraved plates of various prospects and buildings in the town designd by Mr Bell the architect,³ many of which have been alterd since the <grav> drawings were made. I sounded him about disposing of them to you but he seem[d] unwilling without a considerable gratuity.

'Twill be necessary before you write the history of that town to see it yourself & by proper application doubt not but you may procure leave to examine the records. Mr Cooper can not have sufficiently abridged because he is v[er]y little acquainted with the latin tongue. I have 2 seals belonging to hospitals in that Corporation which I will send you but really have not time to draw either those or any thing else. The 1st leizure minuitt will consider Mr Parkins quaes.⁴ & am with sincere wishes for your good success, your most affectionate humble servant,
Beaupre Bell.⁵

1. Reply to Letter 45.
2. Bell was preparing a book on the coins of the Roman emperors, but this was not completed before his death in 1745 (*D.N.B.*).
3. Henry Bell; a number of these engravings are listed in R. Gough, *British Topography* (2 vols., London, 1780) i 19-20.
4. Presumably Blomefield's questionnaire (Letter 294) sent to Bell by Parkin.
5. Reply Letter 76.

76. Francis Blomefield to Beaupre Bell (f. 58)

To Mr Bell.

Fersfield December 29. 1735.

Dear Sir,

I received yours,¹ am glad to hear of your book's forwardness. Send me half a dozen copies when published & I can dispose of so many. I thank you for your account of Mr Cooper. I have been hunting after the Lyn plates & am glad to hear where they are, & when I come near that town will endeavour to purchase them. I had heard of him before but not so exactly. I hope you just spare time to send me the drawings of the 2 seals you mentioned forth with. I am now fitting up what plates I can that way & should take it as a favour, and an abstract of the deeds they are affixed to, which I want for the Derham seal you sent me.

I hope you will answer Mr Perkins quæes as far as you can & as soon as you can, for between ourselves he mentioned it to me in such a manner as if he was a little uneasie you should refuse him such a favour. You must imagine

I am much concernd for my good patron & daily assistant my dear friend the Bishop of St Asaph, whose loss <is> *would have been* very great at any time, but especially now just upon my publication, my book being dedicated to him with his own will & approbation, so that now I <design> it shall appear without any <other> *living* patron, <exc> being determined to dedicate it to *his* memory <only>, not doubting but that will be ever valued among all antiquarians. And for <to look such> another<s> patronages <of> which I could <willing> have, it would be no reall compliment to them, nor gratefull respect to my old friend, for which reasons I shall avoid it. Hoping to hear from you shortly, I am your sincere friend & humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

Success to your work & the wishes of the season attend you.

1. Reply to Letter 75.
2. Reply Letter 122.

77. Doctor Gaylard to Francis Blomefield (f. 59)

To Mr Blomefield &c.
London. November 14. 1735.
Reverend Sir,

I received your letter¹ with your generous token, of Mr Nicholas Hussey and have accordingly made the best progress I was able not only to answer the requests of your letter but that too expeditiously considering the difficulty of obtaining things in our way and especially for such a laborious and large undertaking as yours. Heraldry being a thing out of the common road and will require a great number of sorts to compleat and finish it.

After my having shown the arms and cuts to the cutter, he disapproved of the method of shading and some other objections he made but in order to obviate and make things clear to you. I requested him to send you a specimen which I have sent by Mr Hussey.²

As to the small marks which Mr Hussey informs me you want <d> severall duplicates of, the founder cannot supply you with unless they make new puncheons which will be chargeable amounting to 4. 10. 00 & the cutters to cutt such a quantity will be little less, so was I to advise I would have them cutt all in a <piece> peice to go across the page which will not cost above 3 half crowns if so much (and what I am informed is usually done in such works) and so make them expressive as they occasionally occur.

Mr Hussey has furnished himself with the common types & new press in our own house, which considering things is in my opinion very cheap especially as I shall punctually take care immediately to remitt them to you or any thing else you shall want in my power or capacity. I wish my circumstances were as they have been when I would personally see you and be as serviceable to you as my abilities could reach, who am till further orders, your very humble servant,
Doctor Gaylard.³

1. Letter 60.
2. See Letter 66.
3. Reply Letter 68.

78. Nicholas Hussey to Francis Blomefield (f. 60)

To Mr Blomefield &c.
Bury November 17. (1735).
Reverend Sir,

I have sent you an exact account of what progress I have made in London in the affair I went about. An English I have agreed for (as if you like it) at 6d per li of which I sent you a specimen, a long primer for notes at 1s per li of which a specimen also, a great primer we must have cast, the Saxon I have agreed with the founder to cast about 20 of a sort which will be as much as we want, the Greek I can have what quantity of I please (they being yet in coffin & never used) for 3 thirds of what is the common price, the Black I can have & as little as I will in a fortnights time, so that we can be furnished with everything by Xmass.

A very compleat good press I have agreed for at 7li in this article alone I have saved you above 6li.

I have been with severall cutters but one in particular that has done things of this nature & has sent you some proofs,¹ but

find them all very dear. I have been with a great many stationers before I could find one that had a quantity & find that paper is very dear also but you may happen to suit yourself better hereafter, I mean as to cheapness. You will see the stationers prices marked but he is to make every ream compleat that is to take off the outside quires to give 20 quires to every ream & 25 sheets to each quire.

Mr Toms was not at home but gave order to his wife to see that he should answer your letter directly.² I have seen Mr Ridgwell the gown maker & he had not anything that was fitt for you (as he said) since you rejected what he sent, and gott the money from him, without which should have been obligd to borrow, however I shall see you & balance the account. I would have waited on you this day, am not able to sitt a horse &c.

Nicholas Hussey.³

I would have you see ont[?] for some correspondent to your money to London &c.

1. i. e. William Pennock, see Letter 66.

2. See Letter 57, delivered by Hussey.

3. No reply surviving, see Letter 79.

79. Nicholas Hussey to Francis Blomefield (f. 61)

To Mr Blomefield &c.

Munday December 8. 1735.

Reverend Sir,

I received &c,¹ the stationer which you are to write for the paper is one Mr Brewer by Ludgate.² Shall punctually observe your directions here in sending you word when the letter comes down as likewise to pay the carriage here. I have sent you a pattern of the English which you think you [MS damaged.....] cast, they must be exactly the same body & height other[....] your sorts will not by any means do. This peice of B[.....] rule is such as you will have occasion for if you can have any of it in the country it will save you money, let it be of this height & what length they please.

I have sent order to my brother & others to see the letter exactly weighed & to deliver the cutts to the cutter with your directions to hasten him as fast as possible. Shall be glad to get to work, hope you will for your own safty see that the house is well dried. I am with all respect your humble servant to command,

Nicholas Hussey.³

1. Not preserved.
2. See Letter 71.
3. Reply Letter 88.

80. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 61)

To Mr Toms &c.

Fersfield December 26. 1735.

Sir,

This comes to desire you forthwith to roll off 500 of the Holt plates¹ and 500 of the Fersfield plate,² which I hope is done. Lett it be on a foolscap paper *about 8s per ream* that being the size my book is printing in. Pack up the plates with the copies & a bill of the charge and I will punctually remitt

the mony to you upon receipt of them. I am sorry my printer could not happen of you when in London,³ and that I have not heard from [you] since he left the letter as I earnestly desired.⁴

I have more plates fitt but in short will send none till I have received these, & then I will f> for I must think I might have heard from you before now, and for the future can't stay so long <time> for them but must have them done forth with when sent. I almost am apt <sometimes> to think you are afraid of getting your money but if you do all my plates shall never desire you to trust after I have received them.

Pray let me know by the next *post* when you will send them for I shall stay for the Fersfield plate & have another *to send* <of> that I *shall* want as much & as soon <but>, if you please to put up with them <a> your prospect of Greenwich which I hear you engraved, <I will pay &> putt it in <to> your bill I will pay it. Am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁵

You know to send them from the Saracens Head on Snow Hill where Clark or Banks the Diss Carriers.

1. The Hobart monument, Engraving 3.
2. The du Bois monument, Engraving 5.
3. See Letter 78.
4. Letter 57.
5. Reply Letter 82.

81. Francis Blomefield to James Carlos (f. 62)

To Mr Carlos.
December 26. 1735.
Sir,

Pray be so kind as to send the inclosed for me this day if you can¹ to the places where they are directed. I must desire you to send me by the Ken[ninghal]l Carrier the names of what subscribers you have for tho' I took their number, can't compleat an alphabeticall catalogue for you without their names. Hope to see you about Plow Monday & setle the whole affair. Am [MS damaged.....] humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

Have to my great grief lost my [.....]n assistant the good
Bishop of St Asaph but design that to be no hindrance to my
speedy publication.

1. Presumably Letters 74, 80, 84, and 90.
2. No reply preserved.

82. William Toms to Francis Blomefield (f. 62)

To Mr Blomefield &c.
 London. January 3. 1735/6.
 Sir,

I received yours¹ and am sorry I should keep the last drawing in hand so long, but depend upon having both plates the week after next and all the prints and the print of Greenwich Hospital. You did not mention what price you would go to for paper however I shall do them on a good foolscap, which will look very well. I wish you would gett more drawings ready for I shall be at leizure to dispatch a great many for you. I do not care if you would send me 2 or 3 in a post or two. I am your most humble servant to command,

William Henry Toms.²

1. Letter 80.
2. Reply Letter 83.

83. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 62)

To Mr Toms.
 January 5. 1735[/6] dec. Fersfield.
 Sir,

I received yours¹ and hope you will not fail at the time promised. With yours came 2 others from gentlemen I perceive of your proffession,² which I have answerd this day - in the negative, being resolved to employ no man that undermines another. I shall constantly employ you for whatever I want if you as constantly do them at the time. I will send you up another plate as soon as I have received the*se* <other>, & the money for <the other> *them*, would have you pack up the bill <& a letter> with them.

I sometimes can't get <plates> *draughts* when subscribed for done so soon as I could wish & indeed choose rather not to have above one or 2 doing at a time & shall always send you word by <what time> when I must employ *them* <always> allowing the utmost time I can stay for them. I find you as well as others are not

without enemies, but I dispise all underhand dealers and assure
you as long as I find

you don't use me ill, <will not> *don't* regard any thing <that may be offerd> that way. I am your sincere friend,
Francis Blomefield.³

1. Letter 82.
2. Letters 92, and 93, from Francis Hoffman.
3. Reply Letter 101.

84. Francis Blomefield to John Tanner (f. 63)

To the Reverend Mr John Tanner at Christ Church Oxford, by way of London, executor & brother to the Bishop of St Asaph.

December 26. 1735 Fersfield.

Good Sir,

I hope you will excuse <my troubling you with> *the trouble of* this, which comes to begg the favour of you to look among my Lord's papers for that part of Gyltcross Hundred which I had under his Lordship's correction and that you would be so good as to forward its return, the towns are Ke[nnin]ghall, Lophams, Norton, Garboldisham, Gatesthorp and Riddlesworth.

You can't not be sensible how much I am shocked with the loss of so great a friend and worthy assistant, to whom <all my life long> I have been infinitely obliged, for continued favours even from my childhood. It comes also on the most unlucky time that could be, having by his own will and approbation dedicated my poor labours to him. But as it hath pleased God to take him away, just in this juncture of my publication, I design it shall appear without any living patron, being determined to devote it to his memory, not doubting but that will be ever valued among the learned, and as for other patronages that offer, as it would be no real compliment to them, nor gratefull respect for my old deceased friend, I shall avoid them.

I should be glad to know (if the favour be not too great) if I might have the use of his folio mss. of Norfolk Institutions¹ being ready to lay in any caution for its safe return. I mention it to you (hearing he left the management of his affairs in your hands) and don't doubt but you will be so good as to procure it me if you can. Hope that as I have lost so good a friend that you will be as <serviceable> *serviceable* to me as you can in helping me to a sight of what occurs in his collections towards the history of Norfolk.

His Lordship was so kind as to subscribe for a draught & plate of Cromer Church² in Norfolk which I have spoke to a friend that I employ that way *for* & also for 6 copies of my book. Should take it as an addition to all favours if you would <send/favour> *oblige* me with a <letter> *line* to <if> inform me whither I must withdraw my orders or not.

I design to be towards Yarmouth the latter end of January and hope you will excuse my freedom if I call upon you. I *heartily* wish all prosperity to <the Bishops> *his* lady & <his> son, tho' unknown, and earnestly hope he may be both as good and great a man as his father, well knowing that if he be that, he need be no better. I am with all possible respect your most humble servant, Francis Blomefield.³

1. See Letter 7, note 3.

2. Engraving 1.

3. Reply Letter 85.

85. John Tanner to Francis Blomefield (f. 64)

To the Reverend Mr Blomfield Rector of Fersfield near Diss Norfolk.
From London by Ipswich bagg.

Christ church. Oxon. December 31. 1735.

Sir,

Before I received yours¹ I had sowed and sealed up your papers² directed them to you to be left at Mr Darbys in Diss and to be sent from London by the Diss Carrier who comes to the Saracens Head on Snow Hill, with intent to send them by the first waggons which go from hence on Monday morning next and gett to London on Tuesday night or Wedensday morning next, and hope I shall not forgett sending them accordingly.

I would not discourage you in your undertaking so much as to withdraw my deceased brothers subscriptions if it be in my power to avoid it. Let your workman go on with the cutt of Cromer church, and inscribe it to my nephew³ in his fathers stead. I will bear the charge of it at present and if my nephew doth not like it when he comes of age, he shall not repay it unless he pleases. The like I dare promise you as to one copy - vizt - to take it for him, and if he doth not choose to have it to bear the expence myself and give it to some library, and will mention the case of the other five books to him at some proper time and let you know his answer.⁴

All things are not left to my management in that extensive manner you seem to have been told. I am executor to my brother and gaurdian [sic] to his son. But his mss &c are disposed of in such a manner that I am afraid it is not in my power to help you to what you desire, unless you are willing to go on with what he hath begun, for he hath given to the Bodlean Library there to be repositied together all his mss books, not only those he bought of Archbishop Sandcroft's executors,⁵ but also all others which he had gott together with all his volumes and bundles of publick letters, state papers, autographs & old deeds, and all such old black letter'd books and other printed books as the Curators and Library Keeper shall think fitt to accept of and are not in this will specifically disposed of.

"The two volumes of my collections towards the Ecclesiasticall History of the Diocese of Norwich⁶ I would have put into Mr Blomefields or any other proper persons hands who will undertake to finish the same, and if there be any profit to be made of my pains, will let the same go to the benefitt of the Norfolk and Suffolk Clergymans Widows ... and till such person can be found the said two volumes to be in the custody of the Lord Bishop of Norwich or his Chancellor for the time being for the use of them & their successors, only during the time of their residence in the diocese. But in their absence out of the same to be kept in the said Lord Bishops Principal Registry..." This is a true clause of his will, you may thereby see how little it is in my power to help you.

I should be very glad to see you whenever you come to Yarmouth but am very much afraid I shall not get home till about the middle of February, there are so many things to be done here. I have many other letters to write so can no more than service to Mr Martin and all other friends in your neighbourhood, and that I am sir your friend and brother,
John Tanner.⁷

1. Letter 84.
2. Blomefield's manuscript for the first part of Giltcross Hundred.
3. Cromer Church (Engraving 1). Thomas Tanner junior (d.1786) was later canon of Canterbury Cathedral.
4. John Tanner and his nephew ultimately subscribed for one copy each.
5. The Tanner manuscripts (Bodl. Libr.) include several hundred items from the collection of Archbishop Sancroft.
6. See Letter 7, note 3.
7. Reply Letter 87.

86. Francis Blomefield to Doctor Gaylard (f. 65)

To Doctor Gaylard.
Fersfield. 28. December 1735.
Sir,

[MS. damaged.....] on Friday the 19th <instant> last past I sent [.....] closed in a letter,¹ drawn by Roger Beart [.....] on Mr John Trolman merchant in Londonafter date in the letter in which it wasesired you not to omitt send*ing* me an [.....]m, but not hearing from you by the [.....]or of some accident <of the letters not> [.....] nor received it pray go and stop payment inme know <of> concerning it the next post [.....] uneasie about it not thinking you would miss [.....] me without wrighting as I desired. <Let me kn[.....] Turkey>.

Hope you have sent the things, and [.....]ck mentioned in <the> *my* last, make a bill & the over [.....]Oli I can remitt to you the same way. I begg [.....] hasten the cutter that I may not stay, tell him as soon as [....]th done me as many as come to 2 or 3 guineas I will [.....] bill. You may send <the> Mr Eppingstall's charge with your [.....]ll,² return it to you for him, <in your bill>. Enquire for Mr Trolman at Bear Key. I am yours to command,
Francis Blomefield.³

Direct to me by the Ipswich bagg to be left at Mr Darbys an Apothecary in Diss.

1. Letter 70.
2. For the supply of printing ink. See Letter 68.
3. Reply Letter 95.

87. Francis Blomefield to John Tanner (f. 65)

To Reverend Mr John Tanner at Christ Church Oxford.
Fersfield January 2. 1735[/6]
Reverend Sir,

I received your kind letter, & this weeks my paper¹ for which I thank you.² I was surprized to find that <all> my lord left

all his Norfolk deeds &c to the Bodley Library with the rest, he having often told me he would reposit them at Norwich. I am desired to begg of you to take care of a mss quarto on vellum which my lord hath, of my lord Cornwaleis's, it is a consuetudinary of Bury Abby,³ in which is much of their manors also. You may know the book thus - see page 27 - in which page are these words - I can't say *whither* at beginning or no - "Sancti Sabe locus erat in Ecclesia Conventuali ad cujus aram stabant vel prope sedebant duo qui ob delictum aliquod[?] penitentiam agebant". It will be taken kindly if you bring it *home* with you.

I thank you for all favours <as> *particularly* continuing the plate *of Cromer* & a subscription, & hope if it lies in your power to serve me <in> any way as to the mss you will. The Notitia⁴ I know my lord had augmented to 2 vols folio - a fine work, I fear now buried in oblivion. <Few> things tho' go into any publick library benefit private instead of *as things* (now <adays> *go*), of <private> *private instead of* use. I am your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁵

1. Letter 85, and Blomefield's manuscript of the first part of Giltcross Hundred.
2. Marginal note 'I find my Lord hath not looked over these papers'.
3. Cambr. Univ. Libr., M.S..Add. 6006, previously owned by 1st Marquis Cornwallis.
4. Thomas Tanner, *Notitia Monastica* (London, 1695). Tanner's additions were included in a second edition edited by John Tanner.
5. Reply Letter 118.

88. Francis Blomefield to Nicholas Hussey (f. 66)

To Mr Hussey,
December 27. 1735 Fersfield.
Mr Hussey,

[MS. damaged] that I could not
lon[.....] messenger this letter to
acq[.....] Gaylard since I saw
y[.....] sent him a 20li bill
res[.....]tion the next post
[.....] him nothing what is
[.....]p nothing of my things, I sent
n[.....]im on Xmas eve, fear he may

hav..... which I gave him directions how to
[.....] this to know if you have heard from him
[.....]gs be come or not or how it is, for I am very
un[.....] it settled.

I have wrote a letter to the Doctor¹ [.....]ave you read &
seal up & send it him forthwith [.....]an't a letter of the bills
reception. I have gott [.....]thing ready to come for the press,
expected it before [.....]ave had a letter from the stationer² &
shall return him [.]ext week so that the paper will be down in
plo[.....]. I sent for as much black as would [.....]ges folio
foolscap, having no answer from the Ipswich fellow that I wrote to
concerning it.³

I must go out a[.] Tuesday for <2> 3 or 4 days *(unless the
press is come)*, and could not be easie without hearing from you,
& should be glad to see you on Monday if your bussness permitted,
if not send me word when you will come & don't let it exceed
Monday se[eve]n[igh]t, for having gott the house ready & all things
in order you must think I long to be doing, especially since I have
lost my great friend *&* patron the Bishop of St Asaph. My
subscribers will think that will retard me if I don't speedily begin.

I have gott all things ready here, the house, yard, chamber
& all are done & make a genteel office. I have gott a stone & can get
brass rule enough & beleive can manage the casts. I pray you at
least to send me by the bearer an exact account of things if you
can*t* spare time to come <on Monday> or if the things be come.
My man at his return shall come for them on Tuesday <or Wed>. I
am your sincere friend,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

Please to talk with Mr Baily⁵ to lay out yore 8. & if he will
take in subscriptions at the allowance of 2s in the pound all that
pass his hands.

1. Letter 86.
2. Thomas Russell, papermaker of Thetford, see Letter 98.
3. Apparently not preserved.
4. Reply Letter 91.
5. See Letter 70, note 3.

89. Charles Parkin to Francis Blomefield (f. 67)

To Reverend Mr Blomefield.

Sir,

I was at Sir Thomas Hare's¹ where I spent a week with a great deal of pleasure in searching his evidences and shall go again this *next* week to finish. I have set by the seals of Shouldham and Marham Abbeys so that if occasion requires we may immediately apply to them. You was so good as to mention your coming over & paying a visit to Sir Andrew (Fountain).² I shall be very glad to see you and accompany you there.

You forgot in your last³ to send me an account of Domsday for South Greenhow that I left with you (to add to) & in your account of that of Grimshow you have omitted the account of Tofts which I desire you to search for & procure me. I am glad to hear your press is in a forwardness & shall be desirous of seeing it if you allow,

Charles Parkin.⁴

[December?] 29.1735.

1. Sir Thomas Hare of Stow-Bardolph in Clacklose Hundred (d.1759).
2. Sir Andrew Fountain of Narford, numismatist, (1705-53).
3. Letter 46.
4. No reply preserved.

90. Henry Briggs to Francis Blomefield (f. 67)

To Reverend Mr Blomefield.

Reverend Sir,

I had the favour of yours¹ in due course and am very [MS. damaged] shall have the pleasure of the 1st sheets in February as [.....] there is but one paper of quae[tionnaires] of Holt Hundred wanting & [.....] sleys which I know is ready & will gett it for you be [.....] come to Holt where I shall be very glad to see you when business will permitt. I should think it would be proper forthwith to advertise in the London papers your design of publishing the first sheets in February, which would I doubt not promote the subscription there being severall persons who have deferred subscribing to your book, 'till they should hear of it's publishing. I expectd a call this month to Norwich &c.

As for the name of my grandfathers grandfather, it was Alexander, married to a Clopton (s[able] a bend arg[ent] between 2

cotises dancette or), his son Augustine to J. Hunt (party per pale. A.V. [argent, vert?] a saltier counter changed). His son Augustine to Elizabeth Aldriel (or on a fess vert a bull arg[ent] armd & inguld or). The last mentioned Augustine was my grandfather. I heartily wish you success in your undertaking & am sir your obedient & very humble servant,
Henry Briggs.²

Holt. December 26.1735.

1. Letter 51.
2. No reply sent, see Letter 103.

91. Nicholas Hussey to Francis Blomefield (f. 68)

To Mr Blomefield.
Bury, December 29th [1735].
Reverend Sir,

I have received by your man your letter¹ wherein you express great uneasiness for not having heard from the Doctor, to be plain I am no way less uneasie then you are, because I have not heard from him since. I kept your man last night expecting to have had letters by the post but had not any but the method I took in my last letters to my brother and likewise to my acquaintance Mr Helmes. I make no doubt but to send you a satisfactory letter next Satterday by the Bottisdale Carrier, otherwise if I have not a letter as I expect, I shall send my wife by the Friday coach to London.

The Doctor has been always accounted a very honest man, and hope he'll prove so. (I have been this morning with your man at the Waggoners and have seen their bills of parcells, there is not anything for us as I can find, there is 100 & odd weight for one Mr Blomfield of Norwich & something that came after the bill went away.[]]

I am sorry to my heart for the death of the Bishop but hope we shall gett over that misfortune. I shall be with you God willing as you desired which is on Monday next. I begg you would make your self as easie as possible in all respects for betide life or death I will see that there shall be no injustice done you on this you may depend from your most faithfull humble servant to command,
Nicholas Hussey.²

1. Letter 88.
2. No further correspondence surviving.

92. Francis Hoffman to Francis Blomefield (f. 68)

To the Reverend Mr Blomefield.

Sir,

Doctor Gaylard told me he would recommend me to you for engraving the cutts of the antiquities you are undertaking as I spend the summer at gentlemens seats where I engrave plates, draw plans of estates &c. I come to town oft very late in the winter for gain: though I so passionately love country air that I sacrifice much gain to enjoy a little of it in the country. I have no other notions of life than to be always ready to serve men of excellent designs who without my aid may pay too dear for a worthy undertaking. I will do justice to the Doctor yet save you much money in your pocket & putt you in a way to print your whole work better and more beautifull than was ever yet published. I will come to Ipswich¹ & engrave the cutts and perfect the draughts where necessary and do you in this affair many other services perhaps beyond your expectations. My life is a perpetual aurea hora being single & having no charge but keeping a most beautiful little masculus² about seven pounds weight.

Direct to Francis Hoffman at the Rainbow Coffeehouse London.

December 27. 1735.²

1. Note by Blomefield:- '(he thought I livd there & was Minister of St Margarets there as his direction shows.)'
2. The transcript of this letter is as copied by Blomefield, but the missing word and the meaning of 'masculus' are unclear.
3. Reply Letter 94, but see also 93.

93. Francis Hoffman to Francis Blomefield (fols. 68-9)

To Mr Blomefield.

Sir,

As I have engraved for most of the printers in Europe in the space of 20 years from p<a>lance to place abroad and for every printer in our own dominions and often sell letter between printer

& printer, and print my own cutts better than any printer living can do, I must know and be able to do more than any of them for there are many ways of printing abroad which our printers know nothing of and the same as to presses and letters and the management of adjusting them. I hope you will take care not to expose me to there revenge for offering to serve you in a more excellent and cheaper way than they are any of them capable of. If you will be at the expence of my journey to you I will come to you and give you a perfect light into the undertaking you are about which no man can meddle with to advantage & satisfaction but from right advice of such as have had long & thorough experience. It is my interest to let them all see I can make any one I please excell them in their own art, this will convince them that 'tis not their interest to run down my prices, and force them to set up as many printers in the country as will improve my own art of which incouragement is the life. Please to direct to me at the Rainbow

(a Post Office) Coffee House. It will come safe to your devoted humble servant,
Francis Hoffman.¹

The last day of 1735.

1. Reply Letter 94, but see also 92.

94. Francis Blomefield to Francis Hoffman (f. 69)

To Mr Francis Hoffman at the Rainbow Coffee House.

January 5. 1735[/6].

Sir,

I received 2 letters¹ from you concerning my cutts &c. I don't at all doubt your abilities to perform whatever is therein mentioned, but my way is to know first upon what terms I am to have things done before ever I employ any man about them. If you <think it worth your while> *please* to let me know, how *much* per coat you will charge for <graving> *doing* the arms and how much per cutt for the rest <that you have seen of> *in* Dr Gaylard *hands*, and also what you will charge me for your <coming to Fersfield> *journey* including your expences, and send me some specimens of your work, possibly we may ag<g>ree. In the mean time I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

<You> Please to direct to <me> Francis Blomefield Rector of Fersfield, <by> near Diss, by the Ipswich Bagg, <or> but if you send any specimens, let it be by the Diss carrier from the Saracens Head on Snowhill.

1. Letters 92 and 93.
2. Reply Letter 109.

95. Doctor Gaylard to Francis Blomefield (f. 70)

To Mr Blomefield.

London January 3. 1735[/6].

Reverend Sir,

Your letter and note¹ came safe to hand, but the principall reason why I did not answer you before was on account of the difficulty of meeting with Mr Trolman² in order to accept the note, what was not done 'til Friday (which was yesterday).

Every necessary you want to carry on your work should have been sent without any note had they been in my possession & disposal but as 'tis customary to pay the money down upon delivery of your goods, and which undoubtedly is the means of saving 2 shilling in the li, you can't in the least be displeased especially as severall persons must be dealt with. A printing house of such a kind I bought for a gentleman about 2 years ago which came to 110li whereas I dare engage I can fitt you compleat for less than forty. The English, press and c, I will send by the 1st return of the carrier with the weight, price &c agreeable to your directions.

The cutter³ has brought me a proof of 2 of the figures & I think very well done but when the note is paid I'll send for them & discharge him, the reason is this, Mr Hoffman (whom I beleive Mr Hussey knows & who we wanted to find out when he was in town) hath been with me whom I have prevailed on to come down to your house in order to setle to finish your whole design. He is an exceeding good cutter and will do them cheap & well, besides the advantage you will have of consulting and advising one another. He is something low in circumstances, but a man well bred and will romance a little in conversation, but will cutt and design finely. I give you this caution that you may deal accordingly. In short he is the fittest man in England just now to suit you. I have given him the arms &c sent me by Mr Hussey but I told him he should not begin the arms 'till you & he had talked together but the figures he might dispatch as soon as possible & to get ready for a journey by the return of the post, when I begg you would write to me.

I received the turkey the day after Xmas day which I had immediately dressed & drank success to the benefactor which concludes me, (desiring to hear from you the next post), your humble servant,
Doctor Gaylard.⁴

1. Letters 70 and 86.
2. Blomefield's bill for £20 was drawn on John Trolman, Merchant in London.
3. William Pennock, Blomefield's woodcutter.
4. Reply Letter 96.

96. Francis Blomefield to Doctor Gaylard (f. 71)

To Doctor Gaylard.

Fersfield January 5. 1735[/6].

Good Sir,

I received yours¹ which gave me satisfaction to find the bill was not miscarried as I actually imagined it was, but am glad to find it is safe, tho' have been much disappointed of my things <fo> which I hope are on the road home. I am much surprized to find that the Londoners way is not to part <for> *from* any thing without the money be first payd, and must <apprehend that> *think* there is no reason for any to pay for a commodity before it be delivered, apprehending <alw> *there is no greater reason <to> for the country men to trust* those gentlemen, than there is for them to trust us, always remmembring the old proverb, that he is a good master that pays when the work is done. I don't mention this as any fault of yours knowing by Mr Hussey (who is now with me) that they are Mr Reyner's² property, so hope when we have received the things & discharged the whole (which shall be speedily done) that he will send us a generall receipt for them.

I find you have taken the draughts out of Mr Pennock's hands all but two which he hath done, but wish you had not been so hasty in that affair, however desire you send me his 2 cutts that he hath finished and their charge *which* you need not pay him, *because in a former letter to him³ I sent him word I would take care of his payments & it would look odd now to contradict it.* I have no objection to Mr Hoffman <by> *but* my way is never to employ any man till I know his terms wholly. I have wrotte him a letter⁴ to lett me know <if he think it worth his while> how much per coat he will charge for cutting the arms & how much per cutt for the rest that you have in your possession <as also> *&*& what he will charge including his expences <to come to Fersfield> *for his journey if I like to have him come*, as also to see some specimens of his work, *which I would should be 3 or 4 of the arms & 1 or 2 of the figures*, & then I shall know *(if I like)* upon what grounds I go, <it being my way always to know what I am to pay for a thing before I have it>.

I can't but thank you for your candid character of the man, and find him to be (I fancy) a man that will romance a little (as you aptly term it) as well in wrighting as conversation, however if he can & will do things as well and cheaper *than others* no doubt but he is valuable to me. If he hath done the figures send them me

with your specimens taken off by the Diss Carrier from the Saracens Head on Snowhill with those 2 of Mr Pennocks packd up together the very first oppertunity.

I hope you have sent every thing I <wrote> *orderd* for the Black, Saxon, & Greek & the bill <& I will return the money that is wanting speedily> *of all*. Mr Hussey is <with me and> out of bussness till the things come, so that he hopes he shall want nothing of all I wrote for. I am, good sir, your most obedient humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁵

Pray Let me hear from you next post.

1. Letter 95.
2. William Rayner, printer, of Faulcon Court, near St George's Church, Southwark, from circa 1736-9. H.R. Plomer, *Dictionary of the Printers and Booksellers who were at work in England, Scotland, and Ireland from 1726 to 1775* (London, 1932), p. 207.
3. Letter 67.
4. Letter 94.
5. Reply Letter 107.

97. Francis Blomefield to William Pennock (f. 72)

To Mr Pennock &c.¹

<Fersfield <Dec> January 5. 1735[/6]>

Sir,

<I find by a letter I yesterday received from Doctor Gaylard² that he hath taken all my cutts out of your hands but 2 which you have finished, and which he designd to pay you for. I desire you would never take any notice of the receipt of this letter to no / any man but keep it to your self for I find he hath gotten another in your profession to do them for me.> I am so far ingaged with him, in helping me to a press and those materials that <at present> I can't take them out of his hands but assure you I knew not <a word> of it <but that they were all in your custody,> till <yesterday> *since I received yours*. I find the pretence is they are to be done cheaper. <I do not love underhand dealings with any man & so can't approve of this.>

However if you know your own intrest take no notice of <it> *this letter to anyone,* & if he offers to pay you for the 2 *cutts

done* tell him you have sent me <a letter of the charge> *your specimens* & fear I should take it ill if you should take <it. You may depend on it, no more shall come into any mans hands but your own, only to deal freely I have arranged to see what work this man is to make of it, knowing what prices I have agreed on with you & they don't, & not fearing but you will use me honourably as I have you faithfully in this affair> *or if he hath already paid you the money take no notice att all about it.*

I have learnd wisdom enough for the future never to part with any drawings to any man living but those I design shall do them, and so I shall send them myself to you & take no notice to any one what you do for me. I will return you <your money> a bill constantly when it come to about 30 or 40s & you shall send the prints to me <always> by the Diss Carrier that comes weekly to the Saracens Head on Snowhill.³ Take no notice <of this> *at all about it* because it may at this juncture be damageable to us both. <I am served in the same way by another as to my graver, whom I have wrotte to in the same manner as to you>.³ I am your sincere friend,
Francis Blomefield

1. There is a marginal note by Blomefield saying 'not sent'. After making substantial alterations to this draft, Blomefield apparently thought it better to await Pennock's reply to his last which would include the specimens (Letter 105). Letter 106 was therefore sent to Pennock in place of this.

2. Letter 96.

3. Letter 66.

4. Letter 83 to William Toms.

98. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Russell (fols.72-3)

To Mr Russell at the Paper Mills Thetford.

January 6. 1735/6 Fersfield.

Mr Russell,

Since I was with you at Thetford I have compared <your> *the* sheets that I took home with me to see the size that I want, and your English Crown proves to be exactly the same size, only 'tis not quite good enough for me. I have sent half a sheet of <Englis> Superfine English Crown, and if you can undertake to supply me with it as good as that and at such a price as you & I can agree upon I would have you come to me at Fersfield, either tomorrow or saterday next¹ and you shall find me at home, for if

you can serve me I shall want so many <100> ream that it may be worth your while <coming> *to come*. As also some quantity of blew, *such* as I shall show you.

I gott Mr Hussey to come your way purely to see if you can do it, *being rather willing to trade with my own country men than strangers if they can serve me & if you can desired him to* <to> send you to me to take orders, for I shall want

some pounds worth as quick as you can make *it*. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. The following memorandum appears on f.4 of the *Journal and letter-book*:-
'January 9. 1735

Agreed then with Mr Thomas Russell at the Paper Mill at Thetford to serve me with paper at the following prices laid in by him at my house -

viz - best English Common Crown at 5s per ream.

Blue paper of the same size at 5s per ream.

Large grey best cap paper at 7s per ream.

My printing paper as good as my specimen at 6s per ream.

Single pott wrighting paper as specimen at 7s per ream.

2d pott as specimen at 12 per ream.

To send 8 ream or more printing paper which I call superfine English Crown <at> by February 10. at longest.'

2. No further correspondence. Footnote by Blomefield:-

'Agreed with him for 5s for English Crown. ditto for Blue. 6s per ream for my printing foolscap, & 7s for large gray cap.'

99. Francis Blomefield to Robert Nash (f. 73)

To *the Worshipfull* Dr Nash Chancellor of <Norf> Norwich.
Fersfield January 8. 1735[/6].

<Good> *Good* Sir,

Since <my great> *the* loss of <the> my great <& good> friend *& patron* the late Bishop of St Asaph, <(whose memory will be always respected by me)> I <wro> have written to Mr John Tanner his executor who <hath> hath returnd me my papers that were in the Bishop's hand.¹ I <earnestly> requested the favour of him to know if I might not have the *use* <sight> of his 2 vols. of <his> Norfolk collections, <and> find by him that he hath given all his Mss's &c to the Bodlean Library <in Oxford>. But in his will is this clause "The two volumes of my collections towards the Ecclesiasticall History &c" (see fo.64).² What one of them contains I well know & <they are> *'tis* only what by your favour I have or can have my self <out of> *from* the office, what the other contains I am ignorant of and in what <method> *manner* they are confined by this clause.

Knowing <your kin> *the* great favours I have *& daily* receive from you, took the liberty to inform you of it, and to

acquaint you, that all I shall desire is, that they may come into your hands, not being designed to recede from my own method of publication (which <I hope> will be next month) and therefore suppose I shall not be entituled to have them in my hands, by this clause, I not being able to accept of them upon the terms viz "to finish the same", (which I take to <be> *mean* in the same way *or method*) or to be judge whether there *will* be any profit to me "from the pains, taken by the Bishop in collecting them", when they are blended in my own work. The <only> *sole* use that I can have for them being only an addition of some <few> notes to each town, as I see by <what> *those* hundreds his lordship hath <done &> collated for me. I desire you would not mention this to Mr Tanner or any one till I see more how matters go.

Only <mention> *I* took the boldness to mention it, that <I might nea> if it lies *in your power* (as <it> in the consequence *it* must do) you would favour me in the affair as far as you can. I hope you will accept of the small present of a hare. I endeavoured for a brace of woodcocks but failed. I hear you are entered into the list of us married men, wish you & your lady all joy *& happiness* imaginable <& a long continuance of it> and a continuance of it for many years. I am your most obliged humble servant to command,
Francis Blomefield³

1. Letters 84, 85, and 87.
2. See Letter 7, note 3.
3. No reply preserved.

100. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 74)

To Mr Toms.

Fersfield January 16. 1735[/6].

Sir,

I now received your plate of Fersfield¹ and went into the church & compared it. I am much pleased with it, your add[itions] *they* exactly answering to the originals. The first is most exact in all points & wants no alteration, only there should be a strong line or ornament to determine the words, William du Bois Priest, to belong to that effigies. The 2d is also as exact as the former in all particulars except the pillows, of which there are but two, so that you may easily conjoin the two 1st and it will be very exact & draw

another strong line or ornament under the words Sir Robert &c to determine that that belongs to the last effigies and not to the stone.

The stone also is exact and needs no alteration, tho' it had been better placed <under> *between* the 2 images, for it lies on the ground close to William du Bois<'s tomb>. However I can manage that in my account of it, only add under it, these words in a small letter.

This <on> *lies at* <by/on> William du Bois's
<effigies on its> right hand.

Please to work <them> off the number I sent you word and send me them & the plates & your charge. I have a plate or two finished, which I will send you as soon as I can get them from a friend that did them for me, which you may depend on will be the 1st opportunity for my own sake. Set your name to all your gravings for me but not my own as delineator, except such as I send word. Such gentlemen as draw for me & set their names, I shall have authority *for* but not otherwise. I am your humble servant,

Francis Blomefield.²

1. Engraving 5. This plate was apparently sent by Toms together with Letter 101 below which is out of sequence.

2. No reply received, see Letter 102.

101. William Toms to Francis Blomefield (f. 74)

From Mr Toms.

Sir,

I hope what additions I have made to this¹ will please you. Please to examine it whither there wants any corrections & let me have a line by the next post. I have bought paper & the other plate² is working of. So soon as I receive this proof will work it of & send the plates and prints to you & the Hospital.³ I wish you would send more drawings, I now being at leizure to do them. Yours to command,

William Henry Toms.⁴

London January 13. 1735/6.

1. The du Bois Monument, Engraving 5.

2. The Hobart monument, Engraving 3.

3. Toms's engraving of Greenwich Hospital (see Letters 80 and 82).
4. Reply Letter 100.

102. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 74)

To Mr Toms,
January 20. 1735[/6].
Mr Toms,

Upon reveiwing the inclosed¹ I find my drawer was not correct in the 2 articles which I have corrected viz - the 2 feet which appear out of the cassock, and the gullet must be taken off the neck as you see alterd. All the rest as my last. I hope you have wrought off the other plates² & will send me these & them immediately, tho' I wish this may not be <rolled off> *done* till you received this to alter it. I have 2 plates *just* ready³ which you shall have the very post after I have received these. I am your assured friend,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

1. The du Bois monument, Engraving 5. This letter and No. 100 above are both apparently replies to Letter 101.
2. The only other plate which Toms had in hand for Blomefield at this date was the Hobart monument, Engraving 3.
3. The Blomefield monument in Fersfield, and Blomefield's arms which he also used as an engraved book plate (Engravings 6 and 7).
4. Reply Letter 120.

103. Henry Briggs to Francis Blomefield (f. 75)

To Mr Blomefield.
[January 1735/6]
Reverend Sir,

I received yesterday received the books &c from Mr Smith,¹ as for the G-2 I can say nothing to it, and therefore would not have you mention it upon any occasion whatsoever. My father's account of his arms is agreable to the copy I sent you signed Byshe at the visitation,³ he was pretty curious in those matters and wrote that account in 1678 which was but 14 years after the above mentioned G-. As to the P-4 it is a curiosity and I like it very well, I thought this the quickest way of wrighting to you and am your ...⁵

[Henry Briggs].⁶

Burn this when you have read it. Mr Smith has a letter for you from me.⁷

1. Robert Smith, master of the Boys' Hospital in Norwich.
2. Probably a reference to the Grant of Arms to Augustine Briggs mentioned in Letter 51.
3. The Visitation of Norfolk by Edward Bysshe.
4. Probably the pedigree of the families of Fountain, Briggs, and Beaupre mentioned in Letter 51.
5. The remainder of this sentence is apparently in some form of shorthand.
6. Reply Letter 104.
7. This letter has not survived.

104. Francis Blomefield to Henry Briggs (f. 75)

To Dr Briggs.

Reverend Sir,

I received yours,¹ am glad the P- pleases you, and more glad the G- is gott into your hands. I shall observe your letter. I received an account from Mr Smith of your kind remittance of the 4 guineas,² wished I could have procured them cheaper, tho' I am glad you have them. I can but thank you for the many favours in serving me, wish it was in my power to make a return to you, and all my good benefactors, equal to my desires.

<My press is gott to work &> *I* hope <that I shall> by the latter of February *to* have my sheets out. <I have inclosed half a dozen copper plates of that you was so good as to subscribe for,³ & I received 2 guineas when at your house, the plate comes to [blank] more but please to let it alone till I see you at Holt. That> *I have your plate* in St Peters *in Norwich *<doing>, being willing to gett what plates I can beforehand because else I shall be at stopps often in my work so many subscribing (I find) for plates just when I come at them, so that I am forced to get what plates I have subscribed for engraved as quick as I can.

My loss is great of the bishop of St Asaph, but I am in hope to get the use of 2 of his Norfolk mss.⁴ I will take care & bring with me Mr Plumstead's grant,⁵ & some very ancient things of his family, & some old letters of some of your own family which are true curiosities, & design to draw a rough sketch of your pedigree rightly joined & to bring it with me for your approbation. I am, with service to your good lady & all your family, your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁶

January 1735[/6].

I imagine your family surnamed <de Brigge or> de Ponte *or atte Brygge* to be originally, de Ponte de Salle (now Saul) as de Fonte (<was> *or* Fountayn) was de Fonte de Salle, for I find familys of these names very antiently styled in Salle.

1. Letter 103.

2. Possibly in the letter delivered to Blomefield by Robert Smith (see Letter 103, note 7).

3. The Hobart monument, Engraving 3.

4. See Letter 7, note 3.
5. See Letter 51.
6. No surviving reply, see Letter 137.

105. William Pennock to Francis Blomefield (f. 76)

<To> *From* Mr Pennock.

Sir,

I have sent the proofs you sent in your letter,¹ and they have been done this month, but I deferred sending, expecting the draughts of the coat of arms, as you wrote for for all the draughts for all the draughts [sic]. I saw the gentleman that showed me them took them away with him again.² As for your head piece, tail piece & fack³ I have no <draughts> *drawing* by me as will do, so if you please to send the size of them & a sketch how you would have them done, I'll take care for them. The price of the monument⁴ is 7s 6d & the other cutt is 3s & the lowest price of the arms is one shilling, for I perceive that many of them will be double & are worth more, neither did I ever do them so cheap as I allow them you. I am your most humble servant,
William Pennock.⁵

London. Jewen Street, January the 17. 1735/6.

1. Probably this is a reply to Letter 106, but see also 97.
2. i.e. Doctor Gaylard, see Letter 95.
3. See Letter 68 note 3. The tailpiece is either Woodcuts 5, or 6.
4. The effigy of Sir John Howard (Woodcut 1). This was almost certainly copied from a cut of the same monument appearing in John Weever, *Ancient funerall monuments* (London, 1631), 851.
5. Reply probably Letter 175.

106. Francis Blomefield to William Pennock (f. 76)

[January 1735/6].

Sir,

I received yours and like the specimens very well.¹ I assure you I have mett with so many disappointments in my affairs that I *scarce* know <not> where *the rest of* my cutts now are, <any more than you do>. I find by yours you had only these 2 come to your hands, when I imagined you had had about a dozen more. However *I now* find that Dr Gaylard hath employd <me his> *a* friend of his about the rest. See p.72.²

Inclosed are six coats which please to do forthwith, a little

bigger than your own specimen inclosed.³

1. Earl Warren chequy or & azure.

2. Broome ermine a cheif indented gules.
3. Calthorp chequy or & azure a fess ermine.
4. Bardolph azure 3 cinquefoils or.
5. A lyon rampant in a shield no colours distinguished.
6. Herling argent a unicorn rampant sable.

Always save me my original draughts be they good or bad & return me them with the prints. These draughts are not good but you may improve them.⁴

[Francis Blomefield]

1. Letter 67.
2. I.e. Letter 97.
3. Woodcuts 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 respectively.
4. Reply Letter 105.

107. Doctor Gaylard to Francis Blomefield (f. 77)

From Doctor Gaylard <my good friend>.

London. January 17. 1735[/6].

Reverend Sir,

I have only just time to inform you that this day the English letter was this day carefully packed up, and sent by Alderman Allen's waggon, that the press, long primmer & joiner's work will be sent by the next return with a bill of the weight charge &c. and with an account of the expence of every other particular. This of this kind to be sent into the country are not so easily dispatched & sent away as some people may imagine.

Mr Hoffman informs me that he hath received a letter from you,¹ and returned you an answer,² and has likewise shown me a specimen of one of the coats of arms, but had much rather consult with you before he proceeds with them. You may in a manner make your own bargain with him, but *verbum sufficit sapienti*, which concludes me in haste your obedient humble servant,
Doctor Gaylard.³

1. Letter 94.
2. Letter 109.
3. Reply Letter 108.

108. Francis Blomefield to Doctor Gaylard (fols.77-8)

To Doctor Gaylard.

1735[/6] Fersfield January 21.

Sir,

I received yours,¹ in which I find the English only is sent, which is not only much to my uneasiness but detriment also, Mr Hussey being at Bury *with carriage <to bring it home>*, expecting the press & every thing else according to a letter that he received <from his brother> concerning them.² He did not <return> *come* last night as I expected, <so that I hope he is come on to London tho' I dont know it> *being disappointed as I suppose of <meeting it>*. You can't think me so weak <surely> as to <be prevaild upon to> beleive that there hath not been time enough in 2 or 3 months to pack up the press & long primer at least, which Mr Hussey bought when with you *& which you can't say was not ready*, and wherefore one should be sent without the other to me is a mistery *because you can't but know it must create me a double journey & charge*.

<In short I find I am trifled with, and therefore desire you to send me forthwith what Mr Hussey agreed for - viz the press & accoutrements at 7li, the English of which he says about 350li at 6d per li which will amount to 8li 5s or therea[bouts] / or if 400wt, which it was not to exceed 10li: the small long primer at 1s per li 60li wt 3li or not above 100li wt at 1/5 [per] li & if they weigh 500wt, & if so much than I am to return them you 40s. And as for the rest don't doubt but in a weeks time to sett myself easie enough / in a small time I shall furnish myself with them without staying time after time as I hitherto have done *with them without*. I can bear with temper as long as most men, but when I see things putt off week after week & no progress my spirit is above that. 'Tis enough for those that can't pay or want a twelvemonth's trust to submitt to those things. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.>

I am really sorry I do & been so troublesome with my letters <to yourself, as I have been> but hope you will excuse it, <especially> *when you consider* it <being> *to be* occasiond by such delays as I little thought of when I received your letter by Mr Hussey, which assured me that the things that I wanted should be immeadiately remitted so as to have everything fitt against Xmas, upon which, if I had depended and advertised I had been in a fine

position, as you well know. However hope you will not miss your promise in your last but punctually send me the press and things the very next week.

I have received a letter from Mr Hoffman & answerd it³ <and specimens of the 2 cutts from Mr Pennock which I like well> - You will for ever oblige me if you do not fail me next week for I am really uneasie. I am yours,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

Let me hear the next post, don't omitt the barrell ink.

1. Letter 107.
2. Not preserved.
3. Letters 92-4.
4. No further replies from Gaylard are preserved, see Letter 113.

109. Francis Hoffman to Francis Blomefield (f. 78)

To Mr Francis Blomefield from Mr Hoffman:
London. January 15. Evening 1735/6.
Sir,

I received yours &c.¹ I was deceivd in my direction to you by the mate of an Ipswich Hoy who affirmd you were come to live in Ipswich. The publick taste is now so refind, that nothing can come out but with the loss of reputation that is not done in the most elegant perfection. Your types should be new, the work of the most excellent artist in that way; I advised Doctor Gaylard to it but it seems a previous agreement was made with Mr Reyner by yours or your printers approbation while in town, I being then not come off my summers expedition. I dared not since intermeddle so as to disoblige the printers, of Rayner only I have already take above 10li this winter, otherwise your press, your ink & your types &c should all have been the most exquisite in their kind. Expencc will make you sensible of the meritt of my advice.

You will do me a great injury should any of the printers know a syllable of it, for they one inform another and the cheifest of them have already told me I am their greatest enemy for incouraging it in the country. I simply answer them 'tis my interest to increase the number of my customers. The word interest has an amicable prevalency in it & it is with tradesmen a sort of knockdown argument.

My terms are these: a guinea for my journey & expences on the road - for the arms, 1s per coat, 3, 4, or 5 shillings for the other figures & cutts according to their quantity of work & the excellency of it. In the minnion common prayer book a small twelve size the best that ever Mr Basket printed,² you will see the King's arms cut by me, my name F. Hoffman, at length to it. I would have sent you for specimens sigil. scol. et Hosp. in Thetford³ & c., the arms of Bois No. 23⁴ which is the size of which you would have them all cutt, but not being satisfyed what the birds are & the colours not being expressed & there being no no. nor reference et quia qui dubitat in <errarem> errorem irreparabilem incidat, at least it would be meer lucky accident to cutt right, I tho[ught] it better to postpone it till by mutual consultation everything may be ascertained & done rightly.

As to an apartment I don't care how mean it is, so it be warm, safe, retired, & the bedding & light good. I covet no conversation but the most learned free & best temperd: to such I am an Omnium Horarum Homo. I live in the appearance of the greatest poverty and meanness yet have undermined sorrow & sickness & even necessity its self almost to their utter eradication. I would have had the sheild of every coat of arms done according to the most exquisite form of shields now in fashion for some of them charm the very eye itself. I design to chuse the most pleasing I can see on the coach of any person of quality. I think I have said enough to convince you how well inclind I am to render you the best devoirs of sir your real friend & most obedient humble servant,
Francis Hoffman.⁵

Please to direct to me at the Rainbow Coffee house, Cornhill:

1. Letter 94.
2. John Basket printed a number of duodecimo editions of the *Book of Common Prayer* between 1732 and 1736.
3. Woodcuts 13 and possibly 14.
4. Woodcut 9.
5. Reply Letter 110.

110. Francis Blomefield to Francis Hoffman (f. 79)

To Mr Hoffman.

<Jan.> Fersfield January 21. 1735.

Good Sir,

I received yours,¹ which I shall answer in every particular, and first, as to the publick taste of printing and c. I don't care one farthing, if I print my work in a man[ner to] my own liking. I don't care two pence for all the world besides, except my subscribers, most of which are Gentlemen in my own way, <that> *whom* I don't at all fear but I shall please. You must understand I don't print (I thank God for it) for my bread, having a comfortable subsistence independent of all men and therefore fear no loss of reputation. And as to the management of my letters, press &c have committed it to my printer only, (with my own inspection) so that I want nothing that way - being a man, to speak truly, that am determined in all things to please my self, tho' I <humbly> *heartily* thank you for your advice as to that matter, and you may depend upon it, that I have honour enough to keep any letter I have or shall receive from you secret.

I can not happen here of a minion prayer book so that specimen will be of no service. If you please to do *me* the first half dozen coats of arms viz no. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. & the Rebus or device of the Bear & the well for Berdewell,² & take off a <cutt> print from each & send them to me for specimens, I will give you a positive answer whither I will have you come down or no - & you need not do any more till I have answered you after the receipt, but take particular care to make no alteration from the common sheild, all new nick nacks to me are nothing. I am to represent things as I find them bad or good 'tis all one, all that I ask in your way, is only to cutt well, but exactly in the method of the draught before you.

I cant say but you[r] charge for coming down is reasonable enough *and so may be that for the other cutts but <I think> you are too dear for the arms,* <and>. I am much pleased with your doubt, allways liking to see a man deffer a thing that he doubts of. You mentioned <in your last> that you <sometimes> pland estates, by next post please to inform me if you can or do practise that way, if you can measure & lay out roads, if you can take plans for your self to cutt from, or if large plates, for an engraver to engrave from, such as prospects of churches, Gentlemens seats, towns, *seals* &c. I am (expecting a letter next post) yours to command,
Francis Blomefield.³

1. Letter 109.

2. Woodcut not identified.
3. Reply Letter 111.

111. Francis Hoffman to Francis Blomefield (f. 80)

Sir,

I have sent 2 coats [MS. damaged.....] No. 4 the arms of Fitzwalter¹ & No. 23 Howard and Bois,² which you order as the size you would have all done of. I would not have done them at so small a price as one shilling each, had I not been informed yours was a cheap country, nor given my advice to have everything done in the best manner, had I not heard you were most happily rich in that best of states;

Beneath ambitions storms which lofty blow
yet shining far above the dirt below.

I shall henceforth follow the plain shields & your orders but had much rather do them under your inspection so no error can be committed. As to the rebus for Berdewell,³ I can not find it unless it be the round one with D.E. a white beast in a yellow field, but of what kind I cannot tell, that on it's back seeming to be a mody[?] saltseller. I draw plans of estates so as to be approved by the best judges, and take surveys and lay out roads, with the utmost exactness so as to cut them on wood or copper myself. I can take prospects of churches, seats & towns but don't meddle with seals. I can't do above 3 of these arms in a summers day especially if I do them so well, as I design to do if we agree, & the country proves so cheap as I expect.

I told you my life was a perpetuall aurea hora i.e. aur-ora that is I always keep to the true mixture of the utilis et dulcis or de utilissimo et dulcissimo anima et animi. I keep the world at a true balance and steer my course at an equal distance between the scylla and charibdis of this life, keeping the dangers of want & abundance at an equality as far off as possible. I am sir your most obedient humble servant,
Francis Hoffman.⁴

January 23. 1735/6.

1. Woodcut 15. This is a reply to Letter 110.
2. Woodcut not identified.

3. Woodcut not identified.
4. Reply Letter 112.

112. Francis Blomefield to Francis Hoffman (f. 80)

To Mr Hoffman.

Fersfield January 30.1735[/6].

Sir,

Yours of the 23d I received¹ and own I like the <inclosed> specimens so well, that if you think it <will be> worth your while to come down and talk with me, I will engage to answer you the guinea for your journey, and if we can agree, I have a tenant that lives within a small mile of me, where I reserve some rooms to myself, & whither I walk everyday, and there you shall have a room of mine, and may board with them if you like so to do, <and> if we agree for the prices of <my> *the* cuttings. However if you come & be paid according to your desire for your journey, if we should not agree, <you> *there* will be no <loser> *harm*. I own I am not willing to give your price for the arms, but however of that when we see one another.

As to <the cheapness of> provissions they are no where cheaper & if you don't like to provide for your self I suppose <for bed eating &c they will not ask above 4s a week or thereabouts tho' I have not talked with any about it> *you may board with my tenant at reasonable rate*. If you come lett it be forthwith, for I shall want my head peice, tailpeice, a fac[totum] or two &c.² I hope Doctor Gaylard will not fail me of *the rest of* my things this week, & take no notice <to any one> to whom or where you are going. I am your humble servant,

Francis Blomefield.³

1. Letter 111.
2. These Woodcuts (4, 5, 6) were eventually produced by Pennock.
3. No reply received, see Letter 115.

113. Francis Blomefield to Doctor Gaylard (f. 81)

To Doctor Gaylard.

January 30. 1735[/6] Fersfield.

<Good>Sir,

I have just gott home to Fersfield <my> the English and the press, which Mr Hussey is going to putt up today, but he finds there want the points & their screws and 2 *of the* frisquetts, with sheeps foot <&> hammer, *& ballstocks* <all which he bought with the press>, the press not being compleat without them, which we desire you would send, and hope that the long primmer <is> *& rest are* sent this *week* for without that & the *<200 quoins> coins & the* ink we can do nothing, nor yet without the fools cap <cases> *chases* and setting sticks. And therefore if they be not sent, I begg of you not to omitt sending them this week. And hope you will forward the <rest as fast as possible> the Greek, Saxon, <&> Black & Great primmer the next week at longest & a bill of parcells with them, <if they be not already dispatched>. And I will take care & answer <you> the *overplus* mony by bill.

I have sent to Mr Hoffman to come down & given him an item to say nothing of it to any one. When my things are compleat <&c> if you be so kind as to hasten them, I shall <think of what present to [1 word illegible]> not forget that <good sir> kindness. I am your humble servant,

Francis Blomefield.¹

1. No reply received, see also letters 114, 126, and 127.

114. Francis Blomefield to Doctor Gaylard (f. 81)

Fersfield. February <2> 12. 1735[/6]

Sir,

<I did not think by my last¹> The delays that I have mett with from you and the damage that I have received thereby is more than perhaps you can easily recompence me for. I thought you had been a man of more honour than to have served anybody <so> *thus*, when you know <that> that my workman hath stayd for you this three weeks. I have received the furniture, galley & a small cask of ink, a frame, the English letter and the press (all except the sheeps foot & hammer & 2 of the frisquetts,) *ball stocks <& eve> & every thing else* which I want a bill of. I have been so putt to it by your neglect that I have been obliged to gett composing sticks *<& / & ball stocks> want none* chases <chases here>.

I can't think it in the least fair *or honest* <in you> to work

a letter after it is sold as I perceive mine hath been, and the long primmer now is, as I am informd by one that you little *think* of, *& this is the reason I have not received it.* If you send me the long primmer <a little of> the Greek and Saxon &, <[1 word illegible]> the Black, that I gave orders for I shall still thank you, but if you <comes> *do not* do it next week, I will not have them at all. You need not trouble yourself about any <long> *great* primmer. <I> Upon your missing me I have provided for my self, as I would have done wholly if I had not been deceived by fair promises of everything being ready by Xmass. Pray let me hear from you next post. I am yours,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Letter 113.
2. No reply received. See also letters 126 and 127.

115. Francis Blomefield to Francis Hoffman (f. 82)

February 13 1735[/6]
Sir,

Please to inform me whither you will come down forthwith or not, if not <send my drawings> deliver my drawings and those 2 specimens you have cutt to <me> Mr Elms *in Manchester Court no. 3 Westminster* who will pay you for the 2 cutts. I am resolved not to be *putt off &* dallied with by <any> *no* body, *having be served so by the Doctor & others, that I will no longer bear of.* Expected to have *seen* or heard from you before now. Am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.¹

[Marginal note] 'He came before the letter went'.

1. This letter is deleted and was not sent.

116. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 82)

Fersfield February 11. 1735[/6]
Sir,

On Friday last I received your letter¹ and on Tuesday the copper plates and cutts,² for which I will order my brother to pay

you when he comes with beasts which he expects will be the 2d week in March.³ I did not think the charge of graving the 2 plates would have been above two guineas & half *each* so that I fear I shall loose many plates *if* <I should speak again>, my subscribers answering me only 3 guineas for workmanship and all. <I will have with them not so that> So for the future I must have my plates all of the same size, and <shall> *must* not <go above> *exceed* 2 guineas and half the graving & 10s the working *off*.

Designing to order a parcell of paper to you the same that my book is printed upon, your paper being too thin. I shall next week send you up a plate *which is of my own expence & hope you will do it exact* of Fersfield church⁴ & a monument for my father in it,⁵ and a drawing for a small plate of my own arms, to putt into my books,⁶ but desiring them to be most exact have gott one Mr Martin, as good a drawer as any is in England to do them for, from whom, when I receive them, which he promises to be next week, I'll forthwith send them.

I don't doubt but you will abate something of 3. 10. for these two, *tho' <tis> according my way I always to leave it to <your self> the workman's own self.* I much like the Hospital & return thanks for the Dukes seat.⁷ <& If> If you[r] oppertunity serves take a tour into the county <.....> this approaching <summer> spring you shall meet with a hearty welcome, from your humble Francis Blomefield.⁸

1. Letter 119.

2. The Hobart monument and the du Bois monument, Engravings 3 and 5.

3. Footnote by Blomefield 'I thought it was not worth the while looking for a bill when he came so soon.'

4. Probably Engraving 8, The South West prospect of Fersfield Church.

5. The Blomefield monument, Engraving 6.

6. The Blomefield family arms, Engraving 7.

7. Toms's engraving of Greenwich Hospital and of the Duke of Leeds's country seat, provided to Blomefield as specimens.

8. Reply Letter 120.

117. Francis Blomefield to John Tanner (f. 83)

To Mr John Tanner &c.
January 31. 1735[/6]. Fersfield.
Reverend Sir,

I received your kind letter concerning my Lord's Norfolk collections,¹ but dare not as yet pretend to say whither I can undertake to finish them or not, being ignorant altogether of their contents, and of the method they are in. It <is being> *being* my sole intention to mix all the ecclesiasticall history I can get, with the temporal. I imagine they must be of good use to me, and therefore <all I> *my* request is, <to> *that I may* have the perusal of them, to enable me the better to give a direct answer <whither I can dare undertake to finish them or not,> tho' I apprehend after my volumes are published, there will be no great occasion for *publishing* a collection of that *nature*, for I have taken such pains that <they> every parish in the county will have a regular series of all its incumbents & patrons digested in such a manner that anyone upon application to my Lord of Norwich's office <to> *will* be able to turn immeadiately to any institution that is <apparent> *then appears* <in that office to which I dare presume to say> *to which my works will be very serviceable). My volumes <will be> *being* a most compleat *generall* index *to <that office> the institutions <rec> in that office*.

I well know and by experience found, that I could not carry on a work of this nature to have it any thing correct, if I printed at London or any distance from me, and therefore, tho' at a *very* great expence, I have gott a work*man & a* <printing> press and other materials set up in my own house at Fersfield which I will sett to work as soon as I <re> am determined in this affair, which I hope you <will let> enable me to do as soon as you can conveniently. I am sure by this method <that> my subscribers shall not be imposed upon, for I will part from no single numbers, and such as come in after my work is begun, shall be upon the same terms as the rest, and not at a lower rate as *is* the common way at this time. I shall be highly obliged for an answer, in the mean time am your most obedient humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Letter 118.

2. No reply preserved.

118. John Tanner to Francis Blomefield (f. 84)

To Mr Blomefield from Reverend Mr John Tanner.
Christs Church Oxon. January 26. 1735[/6].

Sir,

Either thro' my wrighting in haste,¹ I gave you a wrong account of my brothers will, or you have misunderstood me. For tho' his mss in general are given to the Bodlean Library, yet his collections towards the ecclesiastical history of our diocese are excepted from it, and are to be put into your hands or any other person's who will finish them & let the profit of my brothers pains go to the Society for Clergymans Widows. And if no body will undertake it upon those terms, then to be for the use of the Bishop & Chancellor of Norwich whilst they are in the Diocese only and at other times to be kept in the Register's office.

It is not therefore in my power as I observed in my last to put them into your hands unless you will undertake to finish them. But since my last I have been thinking that if you were to write a letter directed to me at Mrs Symondes's in New Palace Yard Westminster, whither I hope to get on February 3d, that you have received my letter concerning those collections, can't yet say whither you can undertake to finish them or not... That perhaps there may be no great occasion for it after you have finished your work, it being your intention to mix all the ecclesiastical history with the temporal, & that these books will be of great service to you in this respect, & therefore that you desire to have the perusal of them for the better enabling you to give a direct answer whither you can undertake to finish them or not, or to that effect, I will carry your letter to the Bishop of Norwich² and endeavour to get you those collections which related to Norfolk. But pray write in such a manner that the Bishop may see your letter and no hint may be taken of this contrivance.

The Notitia³ I claim as private papers and resolve they shall see the light. But I have so much other business and so few books of that nature to help me that I shall not undertake it my self, if any body else will do it, and two have already offerd their service. But perhaps when they see what is still to do they may flee off.

I find amongst the mss - Registrum Sacristae de B[ury],⁴ Reg[istrum] de Vestiario,⁵ and an account of their charters,⁶ but not the book you mention. But I will search again tomorrow. Excuse the haste of sir, your friend & brother,
John Tanner.⁷

I have some thoughts of coming from London by the Bury Coach & if I do I shall desire to meet you at Scole Inn, where tho' their stay may be but short perhaps some thing or other may be

done, said or thought of, to make your work easier.

1. Reply to Letter 87, but see also Letter 85 .
2. Robert Butts, Bishop of Norwich.
3. Thomas Tanner's notes for a revised edition of his *Notitia Monastica* eventually published by John Tanner in 1744.
4. B.L., Harleian MS. 27.
5. Cambr. Univ. Libr., MS. Ff.2.33
6. Cambr. Univ. Libr., MS. Add. 6006
7. Answer Letter 117.

119. William Toms to Francis Blomefield (f. 85)

To Mr Blomefield, Mr Toms's letter.

London January 3. 1735/6.¹

Sir,

I have this day sent your plates & prints, also a print of Greenwich Hospital as you desired,² I hope every thing will please you. I ask pardon for keeping them so long but do assure you it shall not be so long again, please to send me more drawings soon as possible, pray be as exact in taking them as possible which will be a great help to me. I have here also sent the account as desired.

If you please to send the

money or a bill for it, I shall be obligd to you. I am your most
humble servant to command,
William H. Toms.³

Mr Francis Blomefield to William H. Toms debtor.

£. s. d.

1735. September 28 for copper & engraving a
monument of Edw.(sic) Hobart arms & dedication
included

03.10.00.

January 8 - For copper and engraving the
monument of Sir William du Bois

03.10.00.

16. 2 Reams paper at 12s per ream

01.04.00.

31. for printing 500 of each monument

01.00.00.

For a print of Greenwich Hospital

00.10.06.

9.14.06.

P.S. Pray don't omit sending more drawings I now being at
leisure to finish them out of hand. I have sent you a print of the
Duke of Leeds seat which I have lately done which if you will please
to accept it is at your service. I opend the letter again having
forgott to write the bill.

1. It appears that this date is incorrect and should perhaps be 3 February 1735/6.
2. The plates of the Hobart and du Bois monuments requested by Blomefield in Letter 101 (Engravings 3 and 5).
3. Footnote by Blomefield - 'Answer vide fo.82. [i.e. Letter 116]'.

120. William Toms to Francis Blomefield (fols. 85-6)

To Mr Blomefield, from Mr Toms.

Sir,

I received yours as to the price of the plates,¹ if it is two [sic] much I will make it easier to you since your subscribers allow no more than what you inform me. Let me have more drawings soon as possible, I having time to finish some for you out of hand. I'll take care every plate shall be done to time, there is no occasion for high finished drawings, only let the outline be correct, as to the shades I can manage to the best advantage.

I have had my wife ill above this two years which has been upward of two hundred pounds expence to me. If you could contrive to send me a bill for ten guineas when you send the drawings it will be of great service to me & depend everything shall be done to your time. I shall sometime in May next endeavor to see you then can make many drawings for you in a little space of time and put you in a more expeditious way.

If any thing I can serve you in in London, I shall be very ready to do. I could wish to have some of your Proposals. It may lay in my way to help you to some subscribers. Pray don't omitt sending the drawings as soon as possible; it is now in my power to gett a great many done out of hand for you. I am sir your most humble servant to command,

<Francis Blomefield> William H. Toms.²

London. February [20] 1735/6.

1. Letter 116.

2. Draft reply Letter 121, but apparently this was not sent.

121. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 86)

To Mr Toms.

[February, 1735/6].

Sir,

Yours received,¹ have this [MS. damaged.....] sent a bill to a friend of mine one Mr Elmes who lives in [.....] who in 21 days time (not being able to get any one to draw the bill sooner) he will pay you what I am indebted to you. I did not expect a letter [.....] is nature when I had told you the week you should be paid in, tho' I must have then gott a bill because I beleive my brother will not come up. I have orderd Mr Elmes to pay you what you demand for the plates done, tho' think it [...] farr too much as also for the

paper. I now since my last have [.....]eter knowledge of these affairs than I heretofore had, & for the future [.....] grave no more plates till I want them, and then shall send them [.....] friend who will punctually bargain for every one & sett the time & [.....] money at the receipt of them. If I want any more I shall see wh[.....] take for them when my friend hath paid you. In the mean time I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Letter 120.

2. This letter is obliterated and apparently was never sent. See Letter 128.

122. Beaupre Bell to Francis Blomefield (f. 86)

Mr Bell's Letter.

February 7. 1736. Beaupre Hall.

Dear Sir,

A neighbor of mine will be at Diss on the first Friday of the next month and if you will let me know by the post where they may be left for you, shall take that opportunity of sending the seals I promised with copies from about 50 denarij and some very rare brass medals. If you have mett with any duplicate coins that you can well spare or can lend me any that are worth casting, they may be left at the same place, directed for me to be called for by Mr Theodorick & shall safely be returnd by your most affectionate humble servant,
Beaupre Bell Junior.¹

1. Reply Letter 123.

123. Francis Blomefield to Beaupre Bell (f. 86)

Answerd,¹ - that I am obliged to him for them - have no new coins, he hath a catalogue of what I have any of which are at his service - he to leave them at Mr Darby's an Apothecary in Diss. I could not omitt mentioning your name in my catalogue of benefactors. Let me know what forwardness your work is in if you have agreed for all your plates, perhaps I may be serviceable that way.

[Francis Blomefield]

1. Reply to Letter 122.

124. Nicholas Hussey to Doctor Gaylard (f. 87)

Mr Hussey to Doctor Gaylard

[January 1735/6].¹

Sir,

We have received the <long primer and find it very> English, *& long primer* and find the latter very imperfect. We want <...> the following capitals of the long primer viz. A, C, D, H, M, N, R, S, W, AE, figures in general, especially i [MS. damaged] lower case v, x, t, ././, [.....] English wanting <is> capital roma[.....] lower case w, r. Italick <lots of the> *capitals* English B, D, F, H, [.....]v in short there is scarce any capitals so that we want of all sorts but those in particular. Lower case English //, 1, 2, () /. I would beg the favour of you to send a dozen alphabets of the long primer, its italick having a good many already, they being for references to the notes.

We have received a pair of chases, a frame, a bunch furniture, a coffin with 4 slices, brass rule, 200 <coi> quoins, hope you will [.....] sheeps foot & 2 frisquets that belong to the press. Hope there [.....]ular care taken as to the weight of the letter to avoid mistakes [.....] We sett up the letter and find these sorts much wanting being [.....] to turn for many of them, find a great deal of pye & sorts that do not belong to us which we will send back. Hope you will hasten about 40li English Black & the Saxon sorts as soon as you can with the Greek that was spoken for & send a bill compleat with them & the money will be returnd you upon receipt of it. And don't doubt if you hasten but Mr Blomefield will gratifie you.

If you don't choose to send us <the other things forthwith> *them now*, (as I perceive you might have done before now if you pleased), be so generous as to tell me right down & lett us have a bill of what we have had that Mr Blomefield may <be> have <the> everything settled, for I don't doubt but I can <supply myself> fast enough supply myself as long as Mr Blomefield is so kind as to furnish me with money. I am your humble servant,
Nicholas Hussey.²

1. This was apparently written at about the same time as Letters 113 and 114.

2. No reply preserved, see Letter 127.

125. Francis Blomefield to William Pennock (f. 87)

To Mr Pennock.

March 5. 1735[/6].

Sir,

I received the ruins, monument & 6 arms¹ & like them well. I have one Mr Hoffman a cutter in your way down with me who is now working the draughts mentioned in my last.² But yet I shall sometimes give you some jobs and don't doubt but you will do them to perfection. Please to do me these coats, Pilkington, Burston, Lowdham, Brisingham, Wingfield. I must have them by the 2d week in April at longest or in the 1st week if you can. I would have you take no notice to any body that I send you draughts nor yet put your name to any. Sometime this month I shall return money to London. Will give you a letter where to call for yours. Am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

1. See Letter 106.

2. Possibly Letter 175.

3. No reply received.

126. Francis Blomefield to Doctor Gaylard (f. 88)

To Doctor Gaylard.

May 1. 1736 Fersfield.

Sir,

Mr Hussey informs me that he hath sometime since acquainted you with the state of his press,¹ in order that the imperfections may be made up. According to his agreement he says he hath <as> particularized every thing that he wants to compleat him and hath expected to have had an answer [MS. damaged.....] way or other before now. I hope you will not delay him any [.....] but tell him <him> whither he is according to his bargain to[.....]etter compleated or not, that he may not retard my [.....]as in[.....]gd to do with continual turning for numbers of roman Ws, Ms, Ts, &c (of the roman* and the sorts he gave you an account of.

If you [.....] to send word whether it shall be compleated or no, I shall be obligd to you, not at all fearing but he may hath letter enough of all sorts if I furnish him with the money. He wants a bill

of [.....] been delivered to settle it entirely, & then I would furnish [.....] compleat <press> letter elsewhere. In the mean time [.....] the looser, it not being possible he should goe on so fast as [.....]d was his press compleat. I request only an answer [...] way or other, & am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Letters 124 and 127.

2. No reply received.

127. Nicholas Hussey to Doctor Gaylard (f. 89)

To Doctor Gaylard in Charterhouse Street by West Smithfield.
Fersfield March. 3 1736.

Sir,

I <Mr Hussey showd me the letter,¹ and> am sorry to find that your illness was the occasion of your not answering <my 2 letters> *my letter² sooner*. I shall be obligd to you if you will send the sorts <that Mr Hussey mentiond> of the English italick & of the <eng> roman in order to perfect that font *as I mentioned in my last*. We have since found that we want commas to <the English> it. As to the long primmer there is cleared of its lumber 47li & a half exactly and so imperfect that we know [not] what to do for want of many things, 1, 2, with Os, so that <I> *we* hope you will send the imperfections by the 1st return, if not sent already. We will return you the lumber &c when the letter is perfected, and desire a bill of all things that we have received the first opportunity.

As for <any> great primmer we do not want any as we sent you word long agoe. As to the Black, Saxon & Greek, please to let them be gott ready and send an exact account of their weight & what they come to, and we will order a friend to see them deliverd & pay <you then> the money <if we like the>.

As to Hoffman, he came down and Mr Blomefield payd him a guinea for his journey, found him a house & supplied him with about 30 or forty shillings more. He did us only a few letters, & <a> agreed for a large parcell of work, & cutt several of the things all which he ran away with, & we know not where he is so hope that you will inform us, as soon as you know he is in London, Mr Blomefield being determined to prosecute him to the utmost. Mr Blomefield gives his service to you, and is sorry he should <be so>

think so *badly* of you, <but still hopes to see you> especially as he finds your illness occasiond <his> *the* delay. I am your humble servant,
Nicholas Hussey.³

1. Not preserved.
2. Letter 124.
3. No reply known.

128. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 91)

To Mr Toms,
Fersfield April 11. 1736.
Sir,

Just after I sent my last,¹ I received yours² and have orderd the bearer to pay you the whole that I am indebted to you, which if I could have got a return for, I would have done <it> last month. I have <included> inclosed your bill & wrote a receipt on the backside. I expect a large abatement in the plates, knowing they are as I [MS. damaged...]t word before extravagantly charged. <Please to write over> Please to write me a separate bill for Hobart's monument,³ a copy from the inclosed because that I must send for to be repaid. I don't doubt but you will make such an abatement as I may go on to employ you, <& will send you up a plate> but to speak true design first to see what charge you will stand by, for those plates, before I send any more, & then you shan't fail of a plate immediately if I like it, & if so,

I have some to take & must get you to come this summer & take them, but it must be at such a time as the printer can spare me from correcting, which will be *as* he says about <July> the beginning of July. Your best way will be to come by the coach to Larlingford on the Norwich road, which is <not above 4 miles from> *me* me & <you> *where* I can meet you. <Expecting to hear>, I am your <humble servant> assured friend & humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

1. Letter 121.
2. Letter 120.
3. Engraving 3.
4. No reply preserved.

129. Francis Blomefield to William Thurlbourn (f. 92)

To Mr Thurlbourn
Sir,

I received yours,¹ had sent you some of the first numbers before now and don't doubt but you and I shall agree as to the laying them out tho' hope you will not insist absolutely on the terms ment[MS. damaged.....] in yours. It happens that I have mett with encouragement farr above my expectation, and tho' I printed a good number above my subscribers that I was aware of, wanted some hundreds so that I have been forced to reprint it <again> & this night it will be off, and design by the Cambridge Carrier to send you numbers for what subscribers I have with you. Desire you would *always* send back the inclosed note by the carrier that I may be assured he hath deliverd all the books for I find mistakes that way sometimes. The bearer stays, so that I am obligd to conclude my self yours to command,
Francis Blomefield.²

April 28. [1736].

1. Not preserved.

2. No reply received, see Letter 130 sent later the same day.

130. Francis Blomefield to William Thurlbourn (f. 92)

To Mr Thurlbourn Bookseller at Cambridge.¹

Sir,

I have sent 16. numbers with the names of each person on the books, which I hope you will <send> *deliver* as they are directed. I have not sent any for Mr Trefusis nor Dr Lambert and have orderd Lord Blaney his at London. I am resolved to part with no single numbers. If any new subscribers should offer (tho' it being so far from the county I can't much expect it) please to advise me of their names that I may send them to you. I have mett with so many in places that I did not expect, that I conclude there are some few to be happened on in most places. I designed *to* see you <soon> at Cambridge, but hear the small pox is at Keys,² [and] shall stay till it be over. I expect to publish the 2d no. about a fortnight hence & then shall keep regular to one every month, being putt off from doing so this time by my reprinting this no. I shall be very glad to see you at Fersfield at any time, am your most humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

April 29. 1736.

1. This was sent by the Carrier together with the printed numbers whereas No. 129 was sent by a messenger.
2. I.e. Caius College.
3. No reply preserved.

131. Francis Blomefield to [James Carlos?] (f. 93)

Fersfield Apr. [MS. Damaged.....]

Sir,

I received yours¹ & the book safe, with the catalogue, which I will put in order, against the next pamphlet is ready, which I am hastening as fast as possible, tho' I have been much sett back, by reprinting my last, <which have finished sometime since>.

I perceive the paper is very bad of the 1st number, have sent to my paper man since yours,² he hath been with me and owns that *part of* it was sized in a frost <so that that> *which* took out the sizing which is the strength of the paper and that is the reason that it cracks in so many places. *I had none of it left &* the rest that I have had since proves well & hath no flaws. He hath promised me to return me as much good paper as I shall have books returnd me that have any flaws. So that I would have you <advertise> *let* such subscribers as meet with those books, *know* that I will take care and get <such a number> *enough* of the 1st numbers that if they please to return them to you, they shall have a perfect one gratis deliverd with the last number of the 1st volume so that it shall not injure the Vol. A. *And need not return this number till then.*

As for what you have of those in the country undeliverd, examine them, and if there be no flaws <or cracks> send them to the subscribers. I expected you had done that upon their reception *& had sent the printed letters before hand*, being sensible that perhaps many will <never> *not* send for them *but expect them to be sent to them*.

I have daily complaints to me from subscribers that they have had no books, that I ought to have sent them to them as well as other people & such *like*, and what surprize me very much find a great many gentlemen have subscribed & are angry I have not returned them to them, when neither you nor I nor none of my correspondents ever knew of it, which made me look into it & I find all such subscribed to papers that are not yet returned me. Last

week I had one sent me with severall names on it, not one of which occurs in any of my lists, so that if any thing happen that way with you, I advertise you of this that you may have an answer to it.

Reverend Mr Gunby Vicar Flixton subscribed to & had 1. by Mr Shuckforth.

Sir Thomas Hare had one from Swaffham.

Mrs Hunt had one from Bury.

I have altered Mr Nelson as you desired. All the rest are new and do not occur in any of my former catalogues. As soon as my next is done, hope to gett loose a little & then will see you. In the mean if opportunity offer, shall be glad to see you & your spouse at Fersfield assuring you of a hearty welcome. I am yours to command,
Francis Blomefield.³

My number every where increase upon me prodigiously. Should be glad to know if you have deliverd numbers to the gentlemen in your last list or not, it being a large one fear you had not sufficient unmarkd.

[Marginal note] I have got a correspondent in London.

1. Not preserved.
2. i.e. Thomas Russell of Thetford.
3. No reply preserved.

132. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 94)

To Mr Toms.

<April 26.1736> May 1. 1736 Fersfield.

Sir,

I received the receipts from Mr Browne, and was somewhat surprized to find you had made no manner of abatement *according to your promise in yours of February 21,* but *when* I came to read your letter,¹ *[Marginal note] see letter on file dated April 18 1736.* was better satisfied and don't doubt but we shall agree when we <next> meett, being sensible of the overcharge, which by the by I fear may have injured your self as well as me, for I find severall of my subscribers deliver me plates ready done, instead of subscribing <so much> to *me to* gett them done,

everybody being astonished at the price I talkd on for the last plates.

I have inclosed a veiw of Fersfield church,² which must be done exactly the same bigness with the inclosed <wood print> *plate*, the 3 coats must be put in at topp they being on the steeple, & the words, viz the south prospect &c in <an> *some proper* embelishment, proper <as you know> *in the right hand corner*. Pray do it <forthwith> & send *it* me *with all imaginable speed if you can well do it at the small* size at half a guinea each & well. If you can <t> afford to do them at this price, *Else return the second drawing by the bearer.* I beleive <you will> *I shall* have about <.... eighteen to / ten> *12 or 14* to <plan for me> *take* <with> when you come down, & if you can't do them I beleive I shall not have half <of> the number to manage my self by, but the plates sent me.

Inclosed is a wood print of Fersfield church, north west.³ If you can afford to cutt me <a letter> on copper the biggness of the whole paper, a small church with the name over it, to begin every town with <I shall> at 5s each, you will have 30 or 40 to take *in the neighbourhood* when you are at my house & I am apt to think I shall gett most in the county. Write me <back> word immeadiately <about it> *a positive answer* that I may give answers to such as <are concerned in> *favour* my attempt.

The other plates of monuments ruins &c which are to be of the size <with> *of* them you have already done we will agree for when I see you to take your plans. I must be at an sett price for everything in your way, either with you, or someone else, or else I shall find myself much hinderd in taking in subscriptions. I want face to offer the receipt to the Dr.⁴ and if it be not regulated, must loose money out of my pocket.

If it is possible will get ready for a tour by <the latter end of this month or> beginning of the next *month*, & if your terms suit will advertise you the time <in order to come a> as you desird. I am your <very h> sincere friend & humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁵

If you come you shall be welcome at my house as long as you *can* stay & wherever we travell <together> to take the plans it shall be no expence to you, & if you come in the coach to Larlingford I will meet you & show you the way to my house.
*[Marginal note] N.B. the arms on the steeple are Bois ermine a + sable Howard gul[es] a bend between 6 crossletts fitchee argent,

impaling Bois as before Bigod or a + gules.)

1. Letter 120, and subsequent letter not preserved.
2. Fersfield Church, Engraving 8.
3. The printers' factotum of Fersfield church, cut by Francis Hoffman (Woodcut 16).
4. I.e. Dr Henry Briggs who subscribed for the plates concerned.
5. No reply preserved. There is a square 3"x3" left in the body of this letter labelled 'Size of severall churches at Vs.'

133. Francis Blomefield to William Pennock (f. 95)

May 1. 1736.

Mr Pennock,

If you have done any of the arms please to send me them by the bearer. Not hearing an answer from you as to laying out my numbers have since fixed on one to do it for me.¹ I hope you'll be punctuall always as to your time. Please to hasten <with> the cut of the old man under the arch² I find I shall want it sooner than I expected. Am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

1. i.e. the bookseller Richard Williamson, see Letter 136.

2. Possibly Woodcut 1, the Howard monument in Fersfield church.

3. Reply not preserved, see Letter 134.

134. Francis Blomefield to William Pennock (f. 95)

To Mr Pennock.

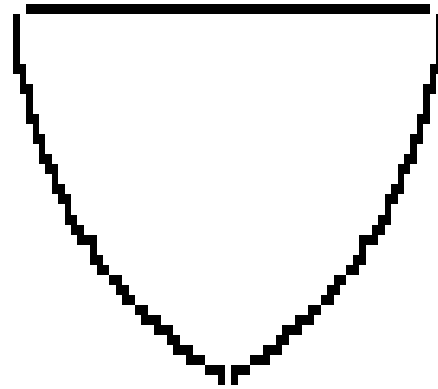
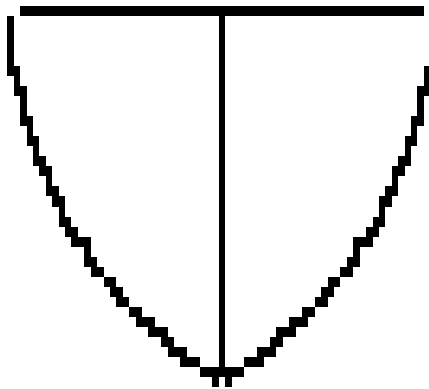
May 15. 1736.

Sir,

I received the arms and monument¹ and like them well. Hasten the fac[totum] adorned with ruins, as also, 2 tail pieces, a small one & a large one, adorned with something the same way.² My printer desires you would cutt him a vemt[?] bigg enough for a quarter of a sheet of fools cap paper³ & these 2 arms⁴

Howard Cornwall

Scales



I want these with the utmost expedition especially the coats. Will take care to answer you the money when it comes to 2 or 3li & opportunity serves. Am yours in haste,
Francis Blomefield 5

1. Woodcut 1 (see Letter133) arms - not identified.
2. Woodcut 4, 5, and 6.
3. Presumably this is a reference to Blomefield's large woodcut factotum, which was not used in the *History* but appears on a number of other items printed by him. including his seperately issued *The history of the town of Fersfield* (Fersfield, 1736).

4. Woodcuts 17 and 18.
5. No reply preserved.

135. Francis Blomefield to James Carlos (f. 95)

To Mr Carlos.
May 15 1736.
Sir,

I thought proper to acquaint you that on Friday next you shall receive my 2d number, please to forward the inclosed.¹ In extreme haste. I am yours to command,
Francis Blomefield.

Saturday May 15. 1736.

Please to inform me if you want any first nos for if so I must desire you to promise the gentlemen that they shall have good compleat ones delivered between this time & the end of the 1st volume. Assuring you I have had such a run, that I have only 8 of those of the 1st no. that I printed off the 2d time in the whole world, and must reprint it again but by degrees, because it would retard my going on a month if I did it at once, which I am resolved not to do. I'll be certain every 22d day in each month.

1. Presumably sent with Letter 136 to Richard Williamson.
2. No reply preserved.

136. Francis Blomefield to Richard Williamson (f. 96)

April 30 1736. <Lar> Fersfield.
Sir,

I received yours of the 26th of this instant,¹ and as it happened, before I had engaged my self to any one in London, not thinking I should meet with any subscribers there. I have sent to you 29 of my first number *at 1s each <month>* 22 of which are subscribed for and their names fixed to each number, by which [MS. damaged.....] I may meet with some <there>, especially as I find for want of an agent, they send to me in the country.

I thank you for the inclosed newspaper, and <for the> *am obliged to the* Doctor's *for his* friendship in recommending the affair to you.² I don't doubt but you will do me what service lies in

your way, for which I shall be willing to make a proper recompense *and shall be glad to hear <from you upon> by your next what terms <we shall you will propose> for laying them out be agreeable*. I am resolved to part from no single numbers, *having all along promised it to my subscribers*.

I have sent 2 subscription papers for you to take the *future* subscribers hands to. You will see I have fixed no time when to finish <it>, it being a thing impossible to do, considering the <new> accounts of things every day coming to me are such that I can't <say> fix what I shall omitt & what not, 'till I come to each place. I expect it will take about 60 numbers, <perhaps> *but whether* more or less I can't *positively* say. I will take care and <return> *send them* to you as they come out, and what new subscribers occur, would begg of you to inform me their names. <And> And to advertise in the General Evening Post, and another paper whichever you think most proper, & let it stand a fortnight in each.

I have inclosed a <rec> receipt <with the p> which I always do with every parcell, which when you have received, and if they be right, please to return me in your next; by this means I hinder all mistakes & keep the carriers that there can be no deceit. I have inclosed some sort of specimen of an advertisement, but leave it to you <to alter> to your judgment *to alter* being more concerned that way than I am.³ I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

To Mr Richard Williamson Bookseller near Grays Inn Gate Holbourn, London.

1. Apparently not preserved.

2. See Letter 141 to Doctor Henry Briggs.

3. Footnote by Blomefield:-

'<Th> Now published and ready to be deliverd to the subscribers,

Number 1. of An Essay towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk &c. see the Blew paper [i.e. the cover of the 1st number] By Francis &c--N.B. The succeeding numbers will come out monthly, and will <be ready to> be deliverd to the subscribers, by Mr Richard Williamson Bookseller near Grays Inn Gate Holbourn, London, <where> Subscriptions are taken in, and all future subscribers will be on the same terms as the former. '

4. Reply not preserved, see Letter 137.

137. Francis Blomefield to Richard Williamson (f. 97)

To Mr Williamson.

1736 May 30.

Sir,

Yours of May the 18th <of May> came safe to hand¹ but not being at home have not been able to answer it 'till now. I find you have been so kind as to advertise <it> according to my desire. I take it for granted I am to pay for the advertisements as I do always elsewhere. I <expect> *hope* you <should> *will* allways send the subscribers their numbers as they come out to their houses, and receive the ready money for them at the delivery according to the proposals they subscribed to, and for so doing shall be will[ing] to allow you 3d <in the> *out of each* shilling with which I don't doubt but you will be satisfied, it being the common way as I am informed in London, tho' we do it <much> cheaper in the country.

I don't personally know any of the gentlemen that have subscribed, they being <procured> *sent* me <by a friend that went up to London>. I shall be obligd to you if you should happen on any new subscribers to inform me that I may remitt accordingly & am obligd to you for your kind offer of promoting the work, which to my satisfaction meets with a good reception among my subscribers in the country. I am your most humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

I left a blank receipt & <24> orderd my man to send 24 no. of no. 2 which I hope you have received.

1. Apparently not preserved.

2. Reply Letter 138.

138. Richard Williamson to Francis Blomefield (f. 97)

To Mr Blomefield, &c.

London, June 5. 1736.

Sir,

The under written gentlemen have enterd themselves subscribers for your History of Norfolk &c. The subscribers for the future shall have their numbers deliverd the 1st oppertunity after they come to hand. I can[t] advertise no. 2 till I have a fresh supply

of such no., see the original letter.

[Richard Williamson]¹

1. Although not signed, this is clearly in response to Letter 137. Blomefield's reply is 139.

139. Francis Blomefield to Richard Williamson (f. 97)

[June 1736]

Sir,

I received yours of June 5,¹ & that of May the 29,² which was written the day before I sent my last.³ I have sent 16 numbers more of no. 2 which with the 24 you received makes 40. A receipt is pind to the nos. which please to inclose in your next. I have had such a run of subscribers, that I have not a single one left of no. 1, tho' I thought I had printed sufficient for whatever subscribers I should meet with. However I have fixed a note under hand that <the> I will reprint the 1st no. & deliver it before the 1st vol. is compleated, & will do it as soon as possible.

It happend that I saw a large increase before I had done with my 2d number so that I have a good many of them, & as I go on will take care of it. Please to advertise no. 2 in the General Evening Post only. <I print> I have none upon better paper, living so much out of the way that I found it troublesome to procure it, and therefore printed it on <genuine> Norfolk paper.

As to having <any> subscribers upon <any> other terms than those proposed, I am not desirous of it. But if any gentleman that hath subscribed & taken them regularly pleases to leave them off, upon informing you of that, I shall be easie. My principal design being, that no single numbers shall be disposed of, as for a particular hundred, or town, <but if at any time my / a regular subscriber desires to leave off, if he> or in any other way than to take them from the beginning regularly. I am your very humble servant,

Francis Blomefield. 4

1. Letter 138.
2. Apparently not preserved.
3. Letter 137.
4. No reply preserved.

140. Francis Blomefield to James Carlos (f. 98)

To Mr Carlos.

Fersfield May 21. 1736.

Sir,

I have sent you 240 of number 2, 207 of them marked for their respective subscribers, the rest for any that may happen accidentally &c. Mr Richard Williamson bookseller by Grays Inn Gate is my London publisher. You will supply Mr Chase with what he wants & in due time I hope. As to the paper you will find it strong, thick and good & so it will be continued. I can't pretend to alter the colour, tho' my paper man¹ tells me the rest shall be somewhat whiter, and if I do loose some few subscribers on that account I must be easie having made a bargain that I can't recede from. However find that I shall have a good number of subscribers more than I expected having parted with all my no. 1 that I reprinted so that I can't send any to the new subscribers & so have sent you promissory notes to deliver to all such as have not had that number. I design to print it again by degrees so as to have them fitt to deliver with the last no. of the 1st volume. I begg you would be exact in setting down those that want that no. & to whom the notes are d[elivere]d. I am of your opinion that it is not best to be too hasty in sending them by the carriers without order because of increasing the charge.

I have added some subscribers viz. John Howes Esquire Norwich, Reverend Mr Frankland he had no.1 from Mr Barnwell² & so had Mr Daniel Jones of Fakenham. Mr Thomas Womack Ludham &c, & omitted Mrs Pratt of Denver & Mr Stillingfleet of Alburgh & placed them to other catalogues. Reverend Mr Thurslow occurs twice in your catalogue, if there be two of that name I have marked only <one> viz. of Tharston. However I will always send over plus coppies having taken care not to want this nor the following numbers. Send me 10 quire of such paper as you used to send me by the return of the post. I shall see you ere long at Norwich. Am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

1. Ie. Thomas Russell of Thetford.

2. The Reverend Charles Barnwell acted as an agent for Blomefield in some country areas.

3. No reply preserved.

141. Francis Blomefield to Henry Briggs (f. 99)

To Dr Briggs Holt.

May. 21 1736.

Reverend Sir,

I received a newspaper from Mr Williamson, London,¹ for which I return you thanks as also for recommending him to me, whom thereupon I have employed as my sole publisher in London. I could not in gratitude forbear troubling you with this to let you know, that I am not of that spirit ever to be forgetfull of my benefactors, among the cheifest of which I must for ever place you. You are not sensible with what pleasure I find by yours & the rest of my friends encouragement.

The work goes on briskly, having had such a run of subscribers that in one fortnight after the publishing of my 1st no., I gott as many new subscribers as I had in the whole before, which occasioned me to reprint it and then also mistook my number, for I have had such an increase, that they are all gone. And now I am forced to print promissory notes that I will deliver no. 1 before the 1st vol. is finished. Inclosed are some copies of the plate & another that will be in next number.² I shall make bold to call on you when I come that way & should be extreme glad of the honour of your company at Fersfield to see my presses at work. Assuring you of a sincere & hearty welcome. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

May 26. 1736, Fersfield.

1. See Letter 136.

2. Probably the Hobart and the du Bois monuments (Engravings 3 and 5).

3. No reply preserved.

142. Francis Blomefield to Edward Warmoll (f. 99)

No. 79 Proposal sent 22 May 1736. to Mr Warmoll apothecary in Downham who laies out &c as in Mr Samuell's catalogue.¹

1. David Samuel, Blomefield's agent in Kings Lynn. No further correspondence.

143. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 100)

To Mr Toms.

June. 24 1736. Fersfield.

Sir,

I have received the plates¹ and herewith you receive them again, please to work them off with all expedition imaginable so that I may have them returned by the Bury Coach, if possible on Wedensday. I expect you will have them tomorrow night. I have been out a week and so they came to be forgot to be sent & my time is come that I am in the utmost haste of them. I have sent 6 quire paper to work the great plate on which send down with the rest. I expect to give you notice for you[r] company in about 3 weeks so that I would have you prepare as I am doing, that we may take a turn in the country. Pray dont omitt giving particular <care> *charge* to the Coach at their coming back that neither chaffing or rain damage them. I am your very humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

Send me word punctually by the *1st* post when they shall be at Bury that I may exactly send for them.

1. Presumably the du Bois and Blomefield monuments in Fersfield church (Engravings 5 and 6) which were required in the second number.
2. No reply preserved.

144. Francis Blomefield to John Dawney (f. 101)

June 8. 1736. Fersfield &c.

Sent to Mr Dawney Fellow of Col. Caj[us] to desire him to get me what subscriptions he could and to procure what he could from H. Hubbard, & Line Fellows of Emanuel, Leman of Kings, Harrieis of Magdalen &c.¹

1. No further correspondence.

145. Francis Blomefield to William Creighton (f. 102)

To Mr William Cretying Bookseller in Ipswich.

March. 6. 1735.

A proposall paper no. 14, 8 blank receipts for the numbers,

counterpart of the agreement, ([Marginal note] 5 letters sent.¹ No.1 in all 8). [There follows a list of 8 subscribers].

Sir,

I have sent you the copies <and don't doubt but that> we shall have <any> *no* dispute as to laying them out being willing to satisfye you to your content, am with humble service to Mr Coggeshall, yours to command,

Francis Blomefield.²

April. 1<1>2. 1736.³

1. Possibly a printed letter notifying subscribers of the publication of each part.
2. No reply preserved.
3. Both dates appear on the draft.

146. Francis Blomefield to William Winde (f. 106)

To W. Winde Esq.

Sir,

Since I have had the pleasure of seeing you at my house, when you was heartily welcome, and where I hope, at your conveniency, I may have the same pleasure again. Finding you so much approved of my method, in pursuance of my design that I am now upon for the preservation of the families in Norfolk, to the latest posterity. Since your departure, a thought has occurred to me, which I would willingly have your opinion upon, and if it be not too presumptuous, would willingly dedicate my book to *his Royal Highness* the Prince of Wales, who (as I am informed) <as I am informed>, is a great <incouragement> *incourager* of arts and sciences, and if I should be so happy as to have the approbation of his Royal Highness, would humbly crave a copper plate of any picture, which he shall judge most like himself, to perpetuate it to posterity, by placing it as a frontispeice to my work, there being so few of the effigies of the preceeding princes of Wales now extant. This would add a lustre to the undertaking, to have so noble a person appear at the head of so many princes, of the Royal Blood, that have antiently been great benefactors to this county, & especially the renowned Black Prince, who as well as his Royal Highness, was the darling & delight of the people. And I am fully perswaded, that the nobility and gentry of the county, <will> *would* think it a great honour, to find themselves and their ancestors under the protection of so noble a patron.

I leave this entirely to your consideration, and shall do in it as you shall direct. As there are already several numbers of it published, I have sent a sett, which I desire (if you think it right) may be presented to his Royal Highness, that he may see my method, & what sort of a work it is, before I dare be so bold as to ask his approbation. I hope you will be so kind at a proper opportunity to give me a line or two by way of answer. I am your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield¹

Fersfield June 14 1737.

1. No reply preserved. See Letter 177.

147/8. Francis Blomefield to Benjamin Shuckforth (fols. 108/9)

To Mr Benjamin Shuckforth Bookseller in Diss
February 25. 1735[/6].

A proposal paper no.19.¹

6 blank receipts for the numbers.

Counterpart of agreement.

Subscribers catalogue deliverd.

[There follows a list of 40 subscribers, 4 of which are marked by a cross.]

In all 36. sent.

April 9. [1736].

Sent 5 more

[There follows a list of 37-41.]

[In] all 41.²

1. Marginal note 'Mr Martin of Palgrave hath no.18.'

2. Subsequently amended by Blomefield with three further names, to make at total of 44. No further correspondence.

149. Francis Blomefield to Samuel Watson (f. 110)

To Mr Samuel Watson Bookseller in Bury.¹
February 24. 1735[/6].

A proposal paper no. 20.
 8 blank receipts for the numbers.
 counterpart of agreement.
 Subscribers catalogue deliverd.
 [There follows a list of 7 amended to 8 subscribers.]¹

1. Marginal notes 'Send there from Diss by the Bury News. Sent no.1. 7 letters sent'. No further correspondence.

150/1. Francis Blomefield to [George Haliday?] (f. 114)

Sent to Yarmouth bookseller
 March 8. 1735[/6].
 <A> *2* proposals paper no. *12* 13
 12 blank receipts for the numbers.
 counterpart of agreement.¹
 Catalogue sent.
 [There follows a list of 31 names.]²

Sir,

According to desire have sent 40 of number one. Please to sign the receipt and send it back by the carrier that I may be assured you have received them right. I am your humble servant,
 Francis Blomefield.³

April. 11. 1736.

1. Marginal note '16 letters to answer to the catalogue'.
2. Marginal note 'In all 40 no. 1'.
3. No further correspondence.

152. Francis Blomefield to William Thurlbourn (f. 116)

Sent to Mr William Thurlbourn Bookseller in Cambridge.
 March 10 [1735/6].
 3 proposal papers 5.6.7.
 12 blank receipts for the numbers.
 counterpart of <proposal> agreement.¹
 Catalogue.
 [There follows a list of 18 names two of which are annotated 'not

sent to Cambridge'.^{2]}

1. Marginal note '16 letters to the cat[alogue]'
2. Marginal note 'In all sent no. 1. 16'. This was presumably sent together with or incorporated in Letter 153 below.

153. Francis Blomefield to William Thurlbourn (f. 116)

To Mr Thurlbourn

Fersfield March <8> *11* 1735[/6].¹

Sir,

I intended to have been at Cambridge before now, but my bussness is such that I can't spare time for it <'till now> 'till the summer, and therefore have sent what few subscribers I have <in your parts / with your> in your parts, and 3 subscription papers to <take their heads of what> be signed by the future subscribers if any offer, & some blank receipts, which I desire you would always send me one of, by the return of the carrier, filld up with the number <of each of the pamphlets> of each number that you receive, by which means the carrier can not deceive us. I have inclosed <the> 2 agreements, the same verbatim as I have made with all my other booksellers. Please to sign them both, keep one & send me the other. I am resolved <not> to part with no single <agreements> numbers, if you should meet with any subscribers please to return their names that I may send you copies for them. I am your very humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.

1. This was apparently sent with, or in place of Letter 152.
2. No reply preserved.

154. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Bailey (f. 117)

[No date].

Deliverd by Mr Hussey December 29. 1735 to Mr Thomas Bailey Printer & Bookseller who is to take in subscribers & be allowed 2s per li for publishing. Send these from Diss by the Bury News.

[There follows a list of 7 names headed 'Bury Catalogue'.]¹

1. No further correspondence.

155. Francis Blomefield to William Lloyd (f. 118)

[No date]

Send monthly to Reverend Mr Lloyd Rector of Thrandeston

[There follows a list of 11 names¹.]

1. Marginal note 'No. 1 sent'. Two of these names have subsequently been annotated 'Send my man with these'. No further correspondence.

156. Francis Blomefield to Charles Barnwell (f. 118)

[January 26. 1735[/6].]

Mr Charles Barnwell's catalogue delivered January 26. 1735.

[There follows a list of 16 names to which has been added various others bringing the total to 23.¹]

Send these always by the Lyn carrier to the Unicorn in <St> Little St Maries Norwich.)

1. Marginal notes 'No. 1 sent'. No further correspondence.

157. Francis Blomefield to John Sares (f. 119)

[No date]

Mr John Sares Catalogue

[There follows a list of 6 names.]

In all 6.¹

1. Marginal note 'No.1 sent'. No further correspondence.

158. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Pigg (f. 119)

[No date].

Mr Pigg of Watton's Catalogue

[There follows a list of 16 names subsequently amended to 17.]

In all <16> *17*.¹

1. Marginal note 'No. 1 sent'. No further correspondence.

159. Francis Blomefield to William Chase (f. 120)

To Mr Chase Norwich Bookseller

April 9. 173<5>6

No. 2 of proposal paper.
A pair of agreements.¹

1. No reply preserved.

160. Francis Blomefield to David Samuel (f. 121)

Sent to Mr Samuel Bookseller in Lyn & Swaffham

April 9. 1736.

A pair of agreements.

2 proposal papers no. [MS.damaged.....] no.30.

[There follows a list of 32 names subsequently amended to 34.]¹

1. No reply preserved.

161. Francis Blomefield to Richard Williamson (f. 123)

[No date]

London.

[There follows a list of 21 names subsequently amended to 22]

& 2 more not subscribed for. In all 24. Sent these to Mr Richard Williamson near Grays Inn Gate Holbourn, Bookseller.

1. No reply preserved.

162. Francis Blomefield to Robert Hammond (f. 125)

[No date]

Mr Robert Hammond at the White Horse at South Lopham laies out; -

[There follows a list of 6 names.¹]

1. No further correspondence.

163. Francis Blomefield to Jacob Ilive (f. 126)

To Mr Ilive.

Fersfield February 16. 1736[/7].

Mr Ilive,

Mr Hussey <shew> *gave* me your letter which <I took> *&*> as desired I have sent you an answer this post.¹ As to the money due <to you> I have it by me, and wish you had it, having endeavoured to gett a bill for any time, this fortnight past *(for all but the pica which he did not design to pay for yet)* but cannot do

it, however as you propose *to* send it by the carrier, if you send me a letter by next post *you will pay <the carrier> him and really want it* that if any accident happens *that* it is lost. Yours, I will send *it* up by his return. As you offer to take 10d a li ready money for the double pica I will <supply you with> *send* the whole & send me the receipt back in full of all demands (he designing before not to pay you for the double pica) 'till he came up.

I will send 10 guineas which I hope will pay the whole, assuring you the cases are <not> of <no> *little or no* value <to me, Mr Hussey having no use for some of them,> and there being no alteration in the whole from your own charge. As to the English, if I had the <conveniency of ready> money *by me* as I sometimes have, I would not have supplied <him> *it* now, but I have meet lately with more disappointments in money affairs than I ever did in my whole life, <and however/ as your affairs are you can't be bested of it?>

However if you will allow for the old metal <as in your last> *li 1 5s per c.2 as you propose*, and let <me> *us* have <300 wht> 200c. new English *roman* <clear of all imperfections> perfect, & 100c. *English* italick perfect, at 9d per li *or 6d per li change* we paying the carriage of the new letter down to us, & you paying the carriage of the old metal to you, and let us have it down, before we send you the old (for I can't let him stand still) <to you>, and also fifty pounds of small pica perfect at 12d in the pound, *or 9d per li change, &* I will order you shall have all the <old> metal returnd before <the 2d week in April> Easter & <at> in Easter week will pay you the whole balance due, the weight *in all* not exceeding 350li or 360li <&> the letter being *perfect &* good <& proper> metal & <[illegible]> dressed well, (that being the only fault he finds with your letter). I can't pretend to do it before <then> & so will not disappoint you, and you must know best whether it will be of any service to you or no. <My l> I designed otherwise to finish my 1st volume with the letter I have. I am your humble servant, Francis Blomefield.³

I gott you 2 or 3 Magazine Gents last week.⁴

P.S. Let me know in your next whether the new letter shall be sent, & when, because I must agree with the Diss Carrier for bringing of it to me or else I shall be overcharged <& will have> & if we cant agree will have it by Bury & send word to you accordingly.

Note Mr Hussey says he would not have above 60li weight italic perfect & 240li roman.⁵

	li s. d.
The double pica at 10d per li including the 5li & 8oz imperfections comes to	
--	03.17.00.
The bill of English sorts ---	03.10.05.
The English black ---	02.18.06.
A pair of cases to it ---	00.03.00.
A set cases for the double pica ---	00.06.00.
Cover & porteridge ---	<u>00.01.00.</u>
<u>10.15.11.</u> ⁶	

1. This letter is not preserved, see also Letters 169-71, which preceeded it.
2. I.e. Hundredweight.
3. No reply preserved. See Letter 164.
4. Ilive published a rival to Edward Cave's *Gentleman's Magazine* from January 1730 to 1738, with the same title, objects, price, and size (*D.N.B.*).
5. Marginal note 'do[uble] pica 87li more 5li 8oz.'
6. This calculation appears between the first and second paragraphs with the marginal note; 'This at the bottom of the letter'.

164. Francis Blomefield to Jacob Ilive (f. 127)

To Mr Jacob Ilive

February <22> 24th 1736[/7] Fersfield.

Sir,

I have sent you the 10 guineas, and a receipt in full for Mr Hussey and myself, which I desire you would send back by the carrier. As to the letter,¹ my propositions were exactly with your own offer in all things except staying 'till Easter for the money, and therefore seeing what trouble it is and how suspiciously the Londoners trade, I shall not trouble myself at all about any letter more, & when ever I <have a new font, will> *want a little for my own curiosity or Mr Hussey will have a new font, we have agreed to* come my self to London, and see it weighd before <my> *our* faces & pay for it, being resolved not to be troubled any more in this way. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Not preserved, see Letter 163.
2. No reply preserved.

165. Francis Blomefield to Robert Butts (f. 128)

To the right Reverend Robert Lord Bishop of Norwich, <at his house in New Palace Yard> *at his house in Park Street,* Westminster.

Fersfield April 15. 1737.

My Lord,

I hope you <will be so good, as to> *goodness will* pardon my troubling you with this, *which comes* to begg <the favour> of your Lordship <to suffer me to have> *the favour of* the use of the 2 folio mss. late Dr Tanner's, which are now in your Lordships Registry at Norwich,¹ 'till I have finished my Norfolk history, leaving a note under *my* hand for their safe return *at any time when called for*. I begg leave to acquaint your Lordship, that these 2 books are thus disposed of in the bishop's will: "The 2 volumes of my collections toward the ecclesiasticall history of the Diocese of Norwich, I would have put in Mr Blomefield's or any other proper persons hands, who will undertake to finish the same, and if there be any profit to be made of my pains, will let the same go to the benefitt of the Norfolk and Suffolk Clergymen's Widows and 'till such person can be found, the said 2 volumes to be in the custody of the Lord Bishop of Norwich or his Chancellor for the time being, for the use of them and their successors, only during the time of their residence in the diocese, but in their absence out of the same, to be kept in the said Lord Bishop's Principall Registry."

<I did not trouble myself about them because> I could not pretend to alter my method, (which he himself first set me in) nor to think of the other part, it being impossible to know whether or no any thing would come from that <single imperfect> work if printed so, but above all not doubting <of> if once they came repositied <in the Registry> *there*, but your Lordship would permitt me the use of them. I did not trouble your Lordship with it before because the bishop himself had copied & sent me all that related to the hundreds I have printed, but the next number beginning a hundred that I have not,² hope your Lordship will favour me <with the use of them> *so far*. Assuring your Lordship they shall have no injury & shall be safely returned, & if any curious person should want to see them while I have *them*, upon notice from Mr Marker³ will send a messenger with them at an hour's warning.

<I hope> I can't forbear mentioning to your Lordship that I have been for some time presented to the vicarage of Yaxley, <but

have> but <&> finding another person presented by another patron (or at least a pretended one) I begged a Jus Patronatus, and should take it as <a great> a great favour if you Lordship would be so kind as to set <a day / the> *a* time for the hearing it, <my> *our* adversaries seeming *desiring* <only> to drive it off as long as possible, <whereas we are as / as should> by their having employed no proctor as yet, whereas we are as desirous to have it heard as soon as ever your Lordship pleases to set the time <for it>. I am your Lordships most obedient <humble> *humble* servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

1. See Letter 7, note 3.
2. I.e. Volume 1 part 9 beginning the Hundred of Shropham.
3. Robert Marker, a proctor employed in the Diocesan Registry.
4. No reply preserved.

166. Francis Blomefield to William Winde (f. 129)

To William Winde Esquire in Henrietta Street near Cavendish Square behind Oxford Chapel.

Fersfield April 11. 1737.

Good Sir,

You may <well> wonder that I have not had the manners to return you an answer to your generous and kind letter,¹ but I bless God, I am now gott so well, that I am able to inform you the reason of it, which was that in my <Lyn> tour <last> *after* Michaelmas, I laid in a moist bed, which gave me such a cold I thought it would have killed me, *on the spot*. I gott with much adoe to Norwich, & there was seized with such a violent rheumatism that I continued above 2 months confined to my bed, my hands so swelled I could not write a letter, and my feet so that I could not stand. At length I got home in a coach, where I have been confined ever since with a relapse of it, never having been able to go abroad 'till last Sunday, which I don't doubt but you will allow to be a reason sufficient for my seeming neglect.

I gott my last number² corrected by a friend, & this, but hope now to do it my self being much recoverd, & having the use of my hands & feet. I hope I shall now be able to publish again every month. I <much> design to accept of your kind offer *with all my heart* in promoting the interest of <my> *the* dedication, which (if you think so) seems to be most proper just at the finishing of the

1st volume, which will now draw on apace, and therefore I will <so> sketch a petition & letter to send to you for your approbation,³ and will then send it in a fair manner.

I hope you will be so good as to favour me with the plates you was so kind <as> to mention,⁴ & in particular that at Wotton, where I was in my tour & find it much decayed, the top stone is noble, would make a fine mural monument <far better than the tomb>. Somebody hath taken down the stone at the head, which stands so loose that it is fit to fall tho' we drove in a brick to fasten it. I should esteem it a favour for to receive the heads of your family deeds, but a much greater if I could have the honour of your company this spring & see the originals. Assuring you <of> a hearty welcome.

I have meet with these mds.[?] since my illness. I did not think it proper as I could not write to my friends, to do it by any other, not caring to let any body know any thing between me & my acquaintance, & therefore I advertise<ment>d in London & the country how it was with me.⁵ I am in hopes to hear from you, *I am* your most obliged humble servant to command,
Francis Blomefield.⁶

1. Not preserved.
2. Volume 1, parts 7 and 8.
3. Not preserved.
4. See Letter 229 for a list of these engravings. The only one ever completed was Engraving 9, the tomb of Thomas Winde.
5. The advertisement appeared in the *Norwich Gazette* 4 December 1736.
6. No reply preserved, see Letter 198.

167. Francis Blomefield to Francis Russell (f. 130)

1735[/6] February 29.

Delivered to Mr Francis Russell - lays them out gratis

A subscription paper no. 17. and the following subscriptions.
[There follows a list of 10 names subsequently amended to 11.1]

1. Marginal note '10 no. 1/ 11 no./'. No further correspondence.

168. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 131)

To Mr Toms.

October 6. 1736. Fersfield.

Sir,

I received yours of September the 21¹ <and had answerd it before now had I not been obliged> and 'till then was in hopes to have had you with me at this time, having laid out *all* my bussness accordingly. You desire <in it> to know what time I would meet you at Larlingford, when I had set the time in my former,² to meet you there. I must go *on* now as I designed *in* my journey for a fortnight <or 3 weeks> and then can't go out again 'till <I fear> it will be too late in the winter, to stand <long> abroad.

I <would> have no conveniency of remitting any money 'till Mr Browne comes up, but in the mean time am resolved to be upon certainties as to the price of everything <for what in expi / which> *for* I have <found injury to me my> *lost* several things in the graving way for want of application, being resolved (to speak truly), to have nothing more done 'till I am upon certain terms <with you>, which I expected to have been <at> *by this* time, but <seeing it will not / seeing I can> have*ing* no thoughts *now* of seeing you 'till next <year> spring, desire you would *forthwith* send me a positive answer what you will abate me, in the 2 large plates *already done*,³ and whither you will do the churches *exact* in <the same manner> *all things* as Fersfield⁴ at 10s 6d each, <ch> *& those* of the <size> size mentioned in my letter of May the 1st⁵ at 5s each. All monuments of the same size with my father's⁶ at 15s each and all plates of the same size with the Bois's⁷ (let them be what they will) at two guineas each, which terms send me positive answers whither you will <do them> *accept of* or no.

I had 2 plates ready graved given me this week,⁸ & I have lost 3 churches already. If you will do them, I shall bring home some to be done forthwith & will send them directly as soon as I return. Send me a bill of what I owe for the rolling off the churches, <monument & Bois's plate &c> and <what you> when ever I have *an* oppertunity you shall be honestly paid, as also for what ever I shall <hitherto> *hereafter* want. Be positive in your answer, for I will do nothing more 'till I am upon certainties.

The gentleman you mentioned to have been with you, I well know, & have had a letter upon the same account. Pray direct your letter to be left at Mr Carlos's bookseller in Norwich

& then wherever I am 'twill come to me, *and if we agree I'll send you a large plate thence before I come home*. I am your sincere friend & humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁹

I havent seen the Dr yet. Want your answer that I may no [sic] what abatement you'll make.

The Reason why I <will be> must be so <de> positive what I am to pay <you> is this, when gentlemen apply to me, I must suit their tempers & dispositions, as I know them all pretty well; perhaps one will give no more than one guinea for a plate (which I should be loath to miss for the value of the other guineas) another 4, another 3, and so on that I must manage to [illegible?] miss none & make one answer or another throughout & so expect you should promise me that you will not mention to anyone what you are paid *for any* particular plate.¹⁰

1. Not preserved.
2. Not preserved.
3. The du Bois and the Hobart monuments (Engravings 3 and 5).
4. Fersfield church (Engraving 8).
5. Letter 132.
6. The Blomefield monument (Engraving 6).
7. The du Bois monument (Engraving 5).
8. Possibly the engraved arms of Holland, Jernegan or Richardson (Engravings 10, 11, and 12), none of which was engraved by Toms.
9. No reply preserved.
10. Marginal note 'Send this [paragraph] in the next letter.'

169. Francis Blomefield to Jacob Ilive (f. 132)

To Mr Ilive.
Fersfield October 3. 1736.
Sir,

I have at last got time to inform you that I *have* received the Saxon <which comes to 5li 2s 6d>, and like it very well, and also the Greek, which is overcharged 6d a li, and <what is> contrary to what I <mentioned to you> *orderd*, loaden with <quadrates, with which I know better than to pay 3s a li for, there

being> 5li & 1/2 quadrates,¹ which I do not want. <the 24li 1/2 Greek at 2s & 6d a li comes to 3li 1s & 3d & the 5li 1/2 quadrates at 1s a li to 5s 6d.> The cases also <are very extrav> I <expressly mentiond had> have no occassion for, especially at such a price, I can have as good & neat ones made here for 10s. <If I wanted> However rather than return them will allow 12s <&> & keep the quadrate at 1s a li <and then> so that I shall be willing to allow -

	li. s. d.
English Saxon 9lis -	01.02.06. - /2s 6d li
24li 1/2 Greek at -	03.01.03 - 2s 6d li
Cases -00.12.00 -	
5li 1/2 Quadrate	<u>00.05.06</u> - 11s li
Totall - <u>05.01.03</u>	

which sum I will pay you as soon as I have a convenient oppertunity. Mr Hussey will write to you soon, concerning what he hath received.² <Pray inform me what you can offer.> I hope your magazines go on well, they seem to be pretty well approved of. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

To Mr Ilive Letter founder.

1. Marginal note '2 li quadrate, 2li thin spaces, 1li 1/2 m & n quadrates.'
2. Letter 171.
3. No reply preserved, see Letter 170.

170. Francis Blomefield to Jacob Ilive (f. 133)

To Mr Ilive.
November 6. 1736 Fersfield.
Sir,

At my return from Lyn, <to day> where I have been for sometime, I found your letter at Fersfield,¹ and took the first oppertunity to answer it. What memorandums you made <when at> I can't say, nor pretend to answer for. You talkd of 3s li indeed for the Greek, but Mr Hussey *told you* <said> positively, that I should *pay* but 2s & 6d, and I my self particularly <named> observed <I wan>*that I* wanted neither quadrates nor cases. However as you bought them your self I would not do any thing to any mans hinderance, & if if [sic] you like to take <the sum of of> 5li 7s which is, 18s the cases, & the rest as in my last,² will

<speedily> send you the money, ([marginal note] to send 5li 7s) if not will return you the cases & quadrate, which were not orderd, & pay the demand of 3s a li for the Greek *& 2s & 6d for the Saxon* which was *orderd*. I gave your letter to Mr Hussey who tells me he hath wrotte to you,³ as to the contents he best knows his orders. I must own I fancy you are in a gross mistake. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

N.B. The Saxon wants is capital W. viz. Y or *** and the capital *** is not of the same face it being much too small. And also *this* A <this> A *&* is wanting which <is a> *are* letters of the greatest use in the whole alphabet, & also *this* + for vel.

1. Not preserved.
2. Letter 169.
3. Letter 171.
4. No reply preserved.

171. Nicholas Hussey to Jacob Ilive (fols. 133-4)

To Mr Ilive
November 4. 1736 Fersfield.
Sir,

I received you [sic] letter from my master and am surprized at it.¹ I talked indeed of having a new font when I had finished my 1st volume, but not 'till then & was so far from giving you orders, that I never designed *nor talkd of* a font *above* 300 li English & fifty or 60 long primer, I can't imagine what sort of <dire> orders you take. As to what I have received will send you the money, as I can buy them else where, viz. in your 1st bill, you have charged for long primmer justifiers *1s 6d* which is but 16d, for the brevier 3s & 9d which is but 2s 6d. I ordered no other sorts of justifiers, <w/but> and if you don't think fit to take for your 1li nonpareil <as B> 2s. 6d. I will send them back having used none of them.

I make no objection *in the 2d bill* but to the <c> portarage. Your 1st bill comes to 03.10.05, your second <comes> to 3li 2s. and 6d. of which you have overcharged 5s. and and [sic] if you'll abate it will send you the money. ([Marginal note] to send 6li 8.0.) As to the double pica it is so imperfect I can make no use of it, and if you charge me any thing for the cases I will send you them

they being not worth two pence, & when you send the [illegible] and let me know what you charge me a li *for it*, for you have not mentioned that.

When you went away <I des> you promised me that <I> Mr Seares should write to me, but I have heard nothing from him, give my service to him & let him know I shall be up at the spring. Pray send me no more 'till you have positive orders, when & how much, for if you do I'll return it, having given you no such orders, tho' know nothing to the contrary but that I may take such a font of you as I like when time & convenience serves. I am your humble servant,
Nicholas Hussey.²

1. Not preserved, see Letters 169 and 170.
2. No reply preserved.

172. Francis Blomefield to William Pennock (f. 134)

1736.

Then gave Mr Pennock large orders; see the copy of letter on the file, all from Mr Martins 2d volume which I have sent.²

1. This presumably refers to the various Thetford coins, seals and other illustrations, most of which were drawn by Thomas Martin (woodcuts 13, 14, 19, and 20). No reply preserved.

173. Francis Blomefield to James Carlos (fols. 136-40)

March 9. 1735[/6].

Deliverd to Mr Carlos Bookseller Norwich.

No.8,9,10, Proposal papers.

Counterpart of agreement.

About 100 letters to the catal[ogue].

20 Blank receipts.

own list of subscribers.

London list of subscribers 21 copies.

[There follows a list of 170 subscriptions some of which have been crossed out or amended, headed 'Mr Carlos Catalogue'.] Sent in all 200 c[opies] - 164 subscribed for.¹

1. Presumably sent together with Letter 174.

174. Francis Blomefield to James Carlos¹ (f. 140)

April 9. 1736.

Sir,

I have sent you 200 copies of no. 1. <170> *165* are subscribed for & their names wrote on them. I earnestly desire every man may have the same book marked with their name for which I will give you a reason. And don't part from a single copy except they first subscribe for the whole. The catalogue is the same I left with you, only I have added Mr Applebee, Mr Chambers, Mr Crook, <&> Mr Malom & Dr Offly, & taken out Miss Emerson, Mr Pen both of Elmham, Mr Hughes of Colkirk, Dr Newdigate & Reverend Mr Frankland.

Every month please to return me what names you have added if any come to hand. <And next week insert> and next week insert<ed> it as *already* published, in the newspapers. Please to send me the inclosed receipt back by the carrier that I may know if you have received them right. I hope you will accept of a copy & I can't think it <to be> amiss if you would be so good as to go with the advertisement to Chase & give him the inclosed² <subscription paper> and tell him you can furnish him with whatever he wants. <Tell him my allowance which I am willing to give him> for I find he can do me service, among them. Look into his letter & *then seal it*. <I will be att Norwich as soon as I can, I hope you'll accept a copy from> *I am* your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

If Mr Page the stone cutter be a subscriber I can't say, deliver Mr Marker's at the office gratis, that & your own,⁴ I don't reckon Mr Marsham's of Stratton Strawless father & son have subscribed, I don't know whither I have distinguished them right.

If Mr Fairchild of Blickling be dead ask whether his son will not have it.

1. Although Carlos's name is not mentioned on the draught he was clearly the recipient.

2. Letter 176.

3. No reply preserved.

4. Marginal note 'into the 200 but shall always send them over the number & shall take notice of them'.

175. Francis Blomefield to William Pennock (f. 141)

January 20. 1735[/6].

dlle [?] to Mr William Pennock my graver on wood who lives
Jewan Street, London.

1. s. d.

January 20, Ruins of Thorp Parva -1 00.03.00.

Sir John Howard in Fersfield window² 00.07.06.

6 coats of arms at -

00.06.00.

April 9. 5 coats -

00.0

5.06.

01-0 1-06.

April 10. [1736] .

Gave Mr Pennock orders Lord Bardolf of Banham,³ Uffords
arms⁴, Clares arms,⁵ Marshall's arms,⁶ Howards [MS.
imperfect.....]H.M. in Fersfield church⁷ Bois a[.....]⁸ Gross
Fac[totum],⁹ Bury Abby & East Angles,¹⁰ de Cape[.....] [.....],¹¹
Ratcliff,¹² Knivet,¹³ Noon,¹⁴ a fac[totum] corned with ruins.¹⁵

1. Woodcut 21. Marginal note 'received'.

2. Woodcut 1. Marginal note 'received'.

3. Woodcut 22.

4. Woodcut 18.

5. Woodcut 23.

6. Woodcut 24.

7. Woodcuts 2 and 3.

8. Woodcut 25.

9. See Letter 134 note 4.

10. Woodcut 26.

11. Woodcut unidentified.

12. Woodcut 27.

13. Woodcut 28.

14. Woodcut 18, also used as for Ufford.

15. Woodcut 4. Marginal note 'cutts all sent'.

176. Francis Blomefield to William Chase (f. 141)

April. 9. 1736. Fersfield <Apr.>

To Mr Chase.¹

Sir,

As you <were>*are* so kind as to <to> take in subscriptions for me, I here <in> inclose a subscription paper which is to be signed by the subscribers and my agreement for laying the pamphlets out which is exact the same with all my booksellers. Whatever you want I will always take care to have a quantity at Mr Carlos's that you may take at any time, or if you choose to send me the subscribers names I will send you them monthly in a parcell by themselves, <which some> I will call upon you when I come next to Norwich and am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Sent together with Letter 174.

2. No reply preserved.

177. Francis Blomefield to William Winde (fols. 146-7)

To William Winde Esquire.

Good Sir,

Your kind letter of August 14th and that of August the 24th¹ I received together at my return home, else had not been this long without answering them. I shall be much obliged to see the heads of your deeds, as you are so kind to intimate, but much better, if it is agreable, to see the originals, because then I should hope to have the pleasure of seeing your self also *which I shall be at any time glad of*.

I shall be exceeding glad to do any thing that lies in my power to forward <the> things as to the dedication, and in order to draw up such a petition as may be agreable must begg some further time, that I may advise with a friend or two as to the wording of it, and hope you'll consider something of it, for as I have said so much in my Introduction, (which I begg you will again peruse) I must manage so as to turn the complement consentaneous to that, that the petition and the Introduction be not repugnant. I will <take care to mention> *observe* all the particulars mentioned in <the> yours of the 14th & communicate a rough draught to you to alter as you think proper, before I venture

to draw it in form. As to the point if it succeeds, I shall be very still, being a man not given to boast of present favours, knowing the world a little too much for that. I am much obliged to you for the service you have already done me in promoting my subscriptions, as also for your kind communication of what objections are made to the work.

As to the paper it is the best I can procure from the mills near me, and as no one can have any on any other paper I don't doubt when 'tis finished but many that make that objection (if they like the work) will have it notwithstanding the paper. The graving is true, and I dare say exact representations of the things designed. <&> I take such plates as my subscribers please to go to the expence of, and the gentlemen that make the objection, if they subscribed 3 or 4 guineas <or more> *themselves* would not like to be put to <as much / more> *the* expence <again> *of 6 or 8*.

I have been at at large expences for types, *& materials,* and can't pretend to alter for the various humours of mankind, and as to the method of working it. As to the stopping and breaks, 'tis exact as I order the workman, and if there be any irregularity in that, 'tis owing to my humour, and not his *but my* want of knowledge. The objection of the pages being too wide is really true & for that reason have made it narrower. I mention these as between ourselves, not doubting but that you will be so good as to keep my sentiments private, except in the articles that you think <it> at any time proper to mention.

I shall finish Diss Hundred and go then to Giltcros and so by Thetford as the County river leads up to Lyn, thence return as the hundreds join,² and leave Norwich at last in the center. I choose to do this because many towns lie part in one Hundred & part in another and by so doing the History will join better because 'twould cause many repetitions were I to go alphabetically. I hopes [sic] of a letter from you. I am sir your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

Fersfield <Au> September 16. 1736.

1. Not preserved.
2. This itinerary was not adhered to beyond Thetford.
3. No reply preserved.

**Correspondence from Blomefield's Second Letter Book (Norfolk
Record Office NNAS c3/1/9).**

178. Francis Blomefield to John Tanner (f. 1)

To the Reverend Mr Tanner at Lowestoft Suffolk.

August 28. 1737. Fersfield

Reverend Sir,

Having got the plate of Cromere Church¹ finished, I take this opportunity by my printer (who is now on his rounds with the plates, arms &c done this year) to send you a dozen copies of it with some other plates that I have gott finished which I desire your acceptance of. It comes to 6 guineas & an half including copper, carriage and expences. About the plan, for which I was obligd to go to Cromere along with my drawer who took it, and paid him 15s for it besides his expences & my own for two nights, it being so far distant & taking a whole days work of us both. I have inclosed a receipt for it² & must own my self much obliged to you and Mr Tanner for continuing this much of my deceased friend & benefactors favour towards me.

I should take it as the greatest favour imaginable, if you would be so good at your leizure hours, to transcribe from <y> my Lord's collections, whatever addenda he hath to the Notitia Monastica, relating to the monasteries in our county only, from page 146 to page 160, if the trouble be not too great, or if it be no injury to any future design of that work, and then I would not so much as desire it. With service to Mr Tanner & self I am your most obliged humble servant,

Francis Blomefield³

1. Engraving 1.

2. Footnote by Blomefield.

'October 28. 1737

Received then of the Reverend Mr Tanner of Lowestoft in Suffolk, executor of the Right Reverend Dr Tanner late Bishop of St Asaph, the sum of six guineas and an half, in full for the expences, plantaking, copper, carriage & engraving, of a copper plate of Cromere church in Norfolk, which said plate was subscribed for, and given by the said bishop, to Francis Blomefield clerk, to insert it into his History of Norfolk. I say received by me. Francis Blomefield clerk.'

3. No further correspondence.

179. Francis Blomefield to Edward White (f. 2)

To the Reverend Mr White Minister at Great Yarmouth Norfolk.
Fersfield October 27. 1737.

Dear Sir,

I could not omitt my present convenient oppertunity of wrighting to you &c - (invitation of self wife & child to Fersfield). I have found out some great inconveniences in laying out my History by booksellers, and in particular, that they lett out the subscribers' numbers before they deliver them, to be read at so much a book, and I am injured by having them read by very many, that possibly would have otherwise subscribed for them. I am informed that it is usual for Mr Haliday¹ to do so, but he denies it absolutely. I begg as a friend you would not speak of it to any one living. but let me know whither you ever heard he did so, for by some of the copies that I have seen, it should be so.

I am now on a design to lay out every man's number monthly <out> every man's monthly number [sic] at their houses, free of all carriage, which is another thing that my subscribers speak to me about, the carriage of a shilling book costing them a groat, and by this means shall remedy it.

You will ere long see some attempts made to undermine my work, but can tell you as a friend I dare trust, 'tis in such a manner that it is out of their power to injure it. Attempts have been made both by aspersion and cunning, namely to gett me to accept of lent plates over which I should have no property &c, but all aims that way have missed, and now 'tis given out, the work will never be finished, and if it be will cost 20 guineas, to all which I say nothing. But in the mean time think it but right to inform my friends that I dare trust, that if any such things *should* be offerd, that they would favour me so far as to say they beleive it an absolute falshood.

As to my going on, my press, materials &c are all my own, and no man can hinder me. As to the length of the work, I can set no time, but have it calculated for 3 volumes folio, each volume to have 24 or 25 numbers in it, (as the hundred will end) and 2 numbers of indexes, so that each compleat volume will cost 26 or 27s at most, and the whole come to no more at the most than 4 guineas, unless the gentlemen send me in a great deal more materials & plates than I expect, & if so, I dare say my subscribers can't be against giving 1s for such numbers, when the cutts alone will come to more than the whole number. I could not but advertise

you of this, that you

may contradict such things, if they be handed about, about you, as they are about Norwich. I am &c.,
Francis Blomefield Cl[ericus].²

1. George Haliday, Blomefield's bookseller in Great Yarmouth.
2. No further correspondence.

180. Francis Blomefield to James Carlos (f. 3)

To Mr Carlos Bookseller in Norwich.
Fersfield November 1. 1737.
Sir,

I have sent my man, who hath full instructions and orders from me to settle the account with you. I have drawn it up with the utmost exactness, so that there will be no difficulty & you will have nothing more to do, but examine it. I have orderd him to take all the numbers that are by you unless such as you would like to keep that are not taken, *&*& which you will like to account for, for I must make up my accounts clear over Michaelmas or shan't tell how I go on. Such moneys as are now due for numbers deliverd but not received by you, set down on a paper by it's *self* & add what numbers they are <are> & who owes for them now, & set you[r] hand at the bottom, and then deliver *it* as ready money to my man <who> that the account may be perfectly clear, but you must not set of, for laying them out 'till you receive the money for me. Please to let me have a catalogue of all that now take, that I may *not* trouble you & my self with sending more than are wanted, and let me know, who have absolutely refused & who are dubious, that you can't say have absolutely refused. Pray send me 10 quire paper & a small account book. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.¹

Shall be glad to see you & spouse at any time, dare not come to my house² 'till you are more clear of the small pox.

1. No reply preserved, see Letter 190.
2. That is Blomefield's house in Norwich.

181. Francis Blomefield to Robert Collis (f. 3)

To Mr Collis Proctor at Norwich.

eod. die [i.e. 1 November 1737].

Sir,

As desired I sped your bill & hath received it again with 5 guineas, which he imagines will discharge it, by [sic] I had positive orders that you should send me a letter under your hand first, to inform me whither Mr Clark¹ hath paid any thing & whether 2, 3d parts, or one 3d part, or what, & *or* whither this bill be for the whole of all, or 2 3d parts or one 3d part of the charge, & having money in Norwich, upon the reception of your letter will send you a bill to <pay> receive it. Mr Ewer² is resolute to see it thro' & carries it on with the utmost expedition he can, and both sides being resolute I fancy <'twill pass> it may pass more courts than one yet. I am sorry to find a new sequ[estator] granted &c. I am yours,
Francis Blomefield.³

1. Clark was the proctor acting for the opposing parties in the dispute over the right of presentation of the living of Yaxley, see Letter 165.

2. Edward Ewer was the claimant to the patronage of Yaxley who had presented the living to Blomefield.

3. No reply preserved. See also Letters 182, 187, 195, and 225.

182. Francis Blomefield to Robert Marker (f. 4)

To Mr Marker at the Bishop's Office in Norwich.

October 28. 1737.

Sir,

Having this oppertunity desire you would send by the bearer 3 or 4 licences, having used all by me but one, & I expect to use that next week, having had a run lately, & will account with you for them when I can come & stay a little among you at Norwich.

I am sorry to hear there is a new sequestration granted on Yaxley, as Mr Ewer at that distance could inform me as soon as I knew it myself. He hath orderd me to write to the Chancellor, which I must do, about it,¹ tho' really I wish I had no occasion, having a real value for him, and am afraid I should anger him, which I would by no means do, & will word my letter as cautiously as I can to follow my instructions. Mr Ewer is resolutely

prosecuting the suit, and both being resolute fancy 'twill see more than one court more yet.

'Twas hard to have my name erased from the sequestration because I was a party concerned, & now to have it given to <the immediate patron> *one of the pretending patrons*! <I should take it as a favour if> *I desire* you would inform me the date of the sequestration, whither granted solely to Mr Clark, what day the old sequestrators gave in their accounts, and whither they have made any formal renunciations now entered in court, & what day <'tis> dated, Mr Ewer desiring to know. He looks upon it I perceive, that 'tis not reasonable <tha> one pretending patron should have the profits of the living in his hand, to fight the other with. I am yours to command,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Letter 183.

2. No reply preserved, see also Letters 181, 186, 195, 225.

183. Francis Blomefield to Robert Nash (fols. 4-5)

To Dr Nash Chancellor of Norwich.

October 28. 1737.

Good Sir,

I hope you will not take amiss the troubling you with this *letter*, assuring you 'tis not what I desired to <trouble you with> *do,* but what I am obliged to, by Mr Ewer my patron. I would be loath to disoblige in the least, so good a friend and daily benefactor to me, <& will know> *but hope* your candour & humanity will excuse me, if I should too earnestly <and he> desire any *thing,* which should not be <dis> agreeable.

When Yaxley vicarage fell, I was confined to my bed, (as you may remember) at Norwich, and gott Mr Marker to wait on you to request the sequestration, which you generously & kindly promised & Mr Marker made it immediately, & came to seal *it*, <when> *but* upon the reception of Dr Braine's letter *in the meantime* you was pleased to give it to Mr Maibone, & the reason, Mr Marker told me, was because it was like to be a disputable case & I a party concerned, & for that reason you thought I ought not to have it, which indeed appeared to me so plain, that I was entirely easie with it, as if I had never had it.

Our joint request now is, upon hearing that the

sequestration is granted to Mr Clark, who is certainly more concerned in it than I ever was, that you would be so kind as to recall that sequestration, & grant it, to any <one> you think fit, that <is a party> *one* unconcerned, because we can't think, that you will think it reasonable that one pretending patron should have the profitts in his hand to fight the other with. Both of them being resolute to see it through all the courts, as I am orderd to inform you, because Mr Ewer imagines 'twas represented to you, as if he had dropt *it*, <before> *& that might be the reason* the sequestration was given to him.

I should be extream glad of an answer & assure you I would not have pressed it (so earnestly) for it is nothing to me who hath <or not> *it* as I han't it if he had not required me so to do. I am your most obliged & very humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.¹

1. No reply preserved.

184. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Kemp (f. 5)

To the Reverend Mr Kempe at Braken
October 28. 1737.
Good Sir,

I have called <on you> & unluckily missed <you> *you* 3 or 4 times. I should take it as a favour if you could inform me whither Lady Kemp subscribed as well as Sir Robert, for Mr Creighton bookseller in Ipswich informs me she did not & I am sure her name is in the paper you was so good as to return to me. I have made bold to inclose the receipt for your arms,¹ which are as well I could have them done at that price, & by your not sending me word, took it for granted you did not choose any further expence. I am sending my printer a round to all gent[lemen], that have had plates & arms. I should be glad to see you at Fersfield, or at my house at Norwich, if the smallpox would cease, so as I dared to go to it. I am your very humble servant & brother,
Francis Blomefield.²

October 28. 1737.

<Receipt as Mr Tanner> Received then of the Reverend Mr Kemp Rector of Flordon the sum of 5s in full for inserting the arms of that family into the History of Norfolk. I say received by me.

Francis Blomefield.

1. Woodcut 29.
2. No reply preserved.

185 Francis Blomefield to William Jermy (f. 6)

To William Jermy Esquire at Norwich.

October 28. 1737.

Sir,

Herewith you receive 58 original letters of Jermy, Jermyn & Jenney, which I had chiefly <for> *from* Sir Bass' Gaudy's study,¹ among many others & some came from the Ashwellthorp Library.² I never read them, only marked them, & if you meet with anything you like I <should> *shall* be glad of it. There is also an old pedigree, & 45 extract papers in a succession, please to use them at your leizure. I have been looking over thousands to gett your family from them.

I am sorry my book should not please all, but never expected it, I have done & will do the best my little knowledge will enable me, & as to partiality, there can be nothing in that, but if gentlemen instead of giving information about their familys withdraw what information they can, <that> they <nor> *&*& their families being not mentioned is no fault of mine but their own. I bless God my dependance is upon no man living one more than another and therefore partiality in me would be to no purpose. As to the observations of one not liking inscriptions another the lords &c I mind none, for I can produce letters upon the subject from different people, that think so differently, that 'tis impossible for any author to follow all their methods proposed &c, <and therefore I mind no>.

The affair is solely in my own hands & so I will keep it, & don't fear but my subscribers will find it the best way in the end. I know what hath been raised, & 'tis always so that as the old proverb hath it, that a new broom sweeps the cleanest, but should be glad all my subscribers would agree to give me 5 guineas for the 3 volumes, I would ask no more, & that is not 20. I am much obliged to you for your kind profer, but am fully determined to accept no plates but <what> such as the property is given me, but would be <give> willing to give the donor as many <100> copies as he pleased. I hope the small pox will permit me by Candlemass

time to come to my house & if it does, shall be glad to see you, & am your most obligd humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

1. The library of Sir Bassingbourne Gawdy (1560-1606), High Sheriff and M.P. for Norfolk.
2. The library of Sir Thomas Knyvett of Ashwellthorpe.
3. No further correspondence.

186. Francis Blomefield to William Thurlbourn (f. 7)

To Mr Thurlbourn bookseller in Cambridge.
November 1. 1737. Fersfield.
Sir,

My man being returned I thought it proper to acquaint you that I have inspected the account and find every thing right, only a mistake in giving you a wrong account of what you are to send me to compleat Rapin's,¹ 'tis not the 13, but 14 volume that I want & the eleventh, <the> for both which you are paid. But I must have the 5th also & for that you are not paid, only *for* the 1st 4 numbers of it, which you have & I paid for when I took them down with me, so that what is above 4 nos in that volume is still unpaid for. I will constantly send Mr Laws² with yours, but shall not charge it to you, as they may lie in your way, as they would in mine, (for which reason I choose to send them) <being>. You may give my service to him & desire him to take them, it being impossible there should be any mistake. I am glad the account was right, and am your very humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

1. P. Rapin, *The history of England* (15 vols., London, 1726-31).
2. Rev. Thomas Law, Fellow of Christ's College Cambridge.
3. No reply preserved.

187. Francis Blomefield to Edward Ewer (f. 7)

To Edward Ewer Attorney at law in Luton in Bedfordshire.
November 1. 1737.
Dear Sir,

Inclosed you receive the copies of letters I have sent upon

the sequestration affair¹ as if orderd by you, desireing not to appear for reasons you know. We shall see what request will do, if not I am informed upon drawing upon the thing properly *(after application to the bishop)* we may have an inhibition to Norwich Court² & have it thrown into any 2 persons hands, one chosen by them and one by us, & if so, which I would have you consider on 'till we have an answer, don't let us fear it, but do it, tho' I must manage as if it was wholly done by you. I am in better and better hope every day & I beleive they in worse.

Mr Havers sent me word, by letter October 20.³ - Mr Cole who is attorneye (as among the papers) - Mr Havers told me he would wait on your agent, <&> whom he knew well. Whatever is required to be done here I *my self* desired Mr Havers to send word & I'll take care & see Tom do it, that nothing shall miscarry here for want of application, & I hope you'll be as exact above, inform me how every thing proceeds & I'll always do the same.

I have sent the brief such as 'tis, & the rest of my published nos for your acceptance. Our antag[onist] begins to think it a damnable thing as he calls it to spend certainties for uncertainties. We are all well but under some uneasieness about my sister who came by ship 3 weeks agoe from Newcastle & we havent yet heard of her. We all join in service to your self & Mrs Ewer & am your humble servant & obligd friend,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

I hope I shall manage Mintor so as to hear in your next payment at or soon after the time set cleverly by a stratagem, that I beleive will do.⁵

Always send all parcells directed to me or letters that don't require expedition by William Allen's Stage Waggon from the Bull Inn Bishopgate Street, directed for me, to be left at the Swan in Market Herling & our antag[onist]s will have no oppertunity of inspection, it being a distant, & new, but very convenient way for me.

1. Letters 181-3.
2. Presumably the Norwich Consistory Court.
3. Probably Thomas Havers of Thelveton, agent of the Duke of Norfolk (see Letter 236). This letter has not been preserved.
4. No further correspondence.
5. The identity of Mintor, and the meaning of this paragraph, are unclear, but see also letter 195.

188. Francis Blomefield to William Creighton (f. 8)

To Mr Cretying bookseller in Ipswich Suffolk.
Fersfield November 3. 1737.

Sir,

I received yours¹ & deffered letting my printer come your way 'till now, upon the reception of it, for which I thank you, for *else* he had been with you on the Wednesday. Give my service to Sir Thomas,² & tell him for the future I will lay them by, or send them just as he pleases, but never take back any, for if I did, I might have peices of setts scatterd <in booksellers hands> *every where*, or else must be troubled with double carriage <when> which damage them, for which reasons I never take any back, minding only to keep my setts whole, and as he hath just half the 1st volume, without the indexes, I will save the rest of the work for him 'till each volume be compleated if he be so good as leave directions where they must be sent to him.

I have lately made as near a calculation of the work as I can, with my present materials, & if there be not many <more> accounts &c given me in, <more than I now expect>, there will be 3 volumes, 24 nos in each <volume> & 2 for indexes, in all 26, so that the whole 3 will amount to about 3li 18s - & I think can't be more unless I have more accounts sent me that I know nothing of. He hath the account stated and instructions accordingly, and for your trouble of laying them out, I leave it to your self. <I am now at> *When I can go to* Yaxly <& when> I <have done it will> *will do it &* send it but since my last³ have had my old companion the rheumatism which hath hinderd me going out, else had had it as I designd. I am your very humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

My humble service to Mr Coggeshall.

1. Not preserved.
2. Sir Thomas Kemp at Bracken.
3. Not preserved.
4. No further correspondence.

189. Francis Blomefield to William Chase (fols. 8-9)

To Mr William Chase Bookseller in Norwich.

Febr.(sic) November 3. 1737.

Mr Chase,

<I received yours¹ / Your whole account to me is a mistake. I have delivered to you my self 102 & no more & you charge yourself with 48 for the 4 subscribers & 60 to your self which is 108 instead of 102.>

I am sorry to find <such a> *so* wide *a* difference <in our accounts in which I> *as to* make you 4li 12s debtor and you *make it* but 11s 04d. I imagined you had done by <the four> *me* <about> the same as my other editors, <viz taken the money on delivery,> but am more surprized to find you charge me 6s and 8d for laying them out, <when you> *before* I receive <no> anything <of you> for them, and at my proposition of 2s in the pound, <(which is what I allow others when they pay me &> you did not contradict (or else I should have sent none) *it* comes <not quite> to <but> 4 shillings instead of 6s 8d. What you mean at 10s allowance <for> *at* 2d each I don't know. I never proposed more than above, the 14 in hand <I am ready to deduct, but> *please to deliver to Mr Smith*, <but> 18s for 6 advertisements is what I never *paid*, even in the top papers in London. Mr Crosgrave² & all that I have advertised in, never charged me above half a crown an advertisement & you charge 3s.

However in such such [sic] a small account as this 'tis not worth many words. Please to pay Mr Smith what balance you please & sign me the <receipted account &c> general discharge for the advertisements &c & there is an end to the matter. I shall trouble you no further in the affair *but will take care for the future & lay them out to the subscribers my self*, and am sir your humble servant,

Francis Blomefield³

<You mistake much> N.B. I deliverd to you 102 nos & you charge your self with 100 only.

Discharge given. November 5 1737.⁴

1. Not preserved.

2. Henry Crossgrove the proprietor of the *Norwich Gazette*.

3. No reply preserved, but see Letter 221.

4. Footnote by Blomefield:

'Received then of Mr Chase Bookseller in Norwich,

l s d

<by> by 14 numbers of the Essay &c redeliverd - 00:14:00.
 by 40 numbers laid out to the Lord Bishop, Dr Fowle
 commissioner Fowle & the Dean of Norwich, for)
 which he hath not & so I am to receive) 02:00:00.
 by six advertisements at 3s each - 00:18:00.
 For laying out the 40 nos - 00:06:08.
 For laying out the other nos - 00:10:00.
 in money - 00:11:04.
 which in all makes 5li & is in full for 102 numbers of the said
 Essay deliverd by me to the said Mr Chase, & of all other
 demands. I say received by me.

November 5.1737.

Received then of Francis Blomefield clerk, for 1 s d
 six advertisements at 3s each - 00:18:00.
 for laying out 40 numbers of the Essay &c - 00:06:08.
 for laying out more numbers - 00:10:00.
 <which together make the sum of> by discount for 14 numbers
 returnd - 00:14:00.
 & by discount for 40 numbers deliverd to the Lord
 Bishop Dr Fowle Commissioner Fowle & the Dean of Norwich
 for which he hath not & I am to receive- 02:00:00.
 Which together make up the sum of four pounds eight shillings &
 eight pence, in full of all demands to this day. I say received by me.'

190. Francis Blomefield to James Carlos (f. 10)

To Mr Carlos

November 5. 1737.

Sir,

I received the 12li 19s and 4d of my printer and the
 account, <but> *in which* there are <many errors in it> *some
 <mistakes> small mistakes* which I have righted. By the account
 sent, <I have inclosed all your receipts, & signed a general
 discharge, excepting have sent Mr Smith a note for you to sign
 when he gives the numbers he / you desired, and then>, *so that if
 you pay Mr Smith the 6s 8d balance* you will be accountable to me
 <for them &>, *only*, for 4li 11s, of the 3 1st numbers remaining
 unpaid for *in the 1st account,* and 12li 14s for 25 of nos sold but
 unpaid <for / *from*> for *from* no.4 to no.12 inclusive *in the 2d
 account* which with the 36 *now* deliverd is <in all> 19li 01.00.

<and the alteration of the balance 8s. 6d 1/2. is in all 20li 7s 6d 1/2>. The mistakes <were> & alterations are these, there are 6 advertisements only due *(Mr Chase charging me for his six in his account)*. 2 nos were not advertised, before I gave orders to have it constantly done.

In your last account I <allowed &> paid you for 4 advertisements <in> *to* Crograve & 4 to Chase, 3 *of* which <was> were then <done> *inserted*, & one to be <done> *inserted* for the ensuing no <in my last account>. I *then* paid you <up> for all magazines to July 28 1736,¹ but you <neve> forgot to send me March & April, which were not sent <&> *tho'* you was then paid for them. After that I received the four as in my account, but missed July, November and the supplement, <which> I had not the 31st viz. January, February, & March, in this year <I han't> because I left off, but have received (all which you forgott) April, May, June, July & September *1737*, <&> you omitted Bishops sermon² - & 1 no that you wanted in no 4. I took a quire of paper out of the 10, which I have charged a shilling *for* in the account so that you must change these & send me 10 quire of such paper, but it must not be cutt, this letter is wrote on a 1/2 sheet of the last I had of you *& now want*.

The account book is too bigg, I want such a one as I have already had 2 or 3 of you of, viz 4 inches broad in binding & better than 12 long, & I desire you would send it by the return of the carrier and also the paper changed, for I much want them and Mr Smith will pay for the book, that it may not trouble the account.

Send me an *exact* account <of / of what> of what gentlemen owe, <& for nos> *for their nos & what no they owe* & I will take it as cash, & send a general receipt, for such returns will not do, having <so> so many complaints from my subscribers, that they do not omitt taking them because they would not have them, but because they don't like their not having them regularly deliverd, and others are angry & send <me huffing letters because> *word* they have been never <off> offerd to them at all. For which *reasons* I determine to lay out every ones number my self at their own houses, & then I can have no returns at all, nor accounts, nor trouble, but paying a messenger for so doing. I am your very humble servant,

Francis Blomefield.³

1. This refers to Blomefield's subscription to the *Gentleman's Magazine*.

2. Probably Robert Butts, *Sermon preached before the . . . House of Lords . . .*

June 11. 1737 (London, 1737).

3. No reply preserved.

191. Francis Blomefield to Robert Smith (f. 11)

Mr Robert Smith at the Boys Hospital in Norwich.

November 5. 1737. Fersfield

<Goo> Dear Sir,

Be so good as to look out 36 numbers as marked in the inclosed paper and deliver them to Mr Carlos. I desire you would read his letter¹ and then seal it and deliver it to him. If he signs my <general> bill then deliver him mine signed, as you will see and know, and all <the> *his* inclosed receipts. I find the numbers are so wrong deliverd that by the names on the outside nobody can make out any thing, and therefore design at the next number to send a mesenger to the house of everyone, whom I'll pay, (& shall come off much cheaper and have my mony weekly) who shall take the mony of each, *&* perfect all their setts, & deliver them monthly as published for the future.

I thank you heartily for your kind care <and service> but dare not send any of the remaining numbers out, 'till I can get from Carlos an account of what each owes for numbers *& who* & that will enable me to make out what setts are perfect & what not. Please to keep the numbers by you, & I shall get it into a regulation against next no.

Inclosed is Chase's account whose letter² I desire you would read, & then seal & deliver the discharge upon signing one to me *& paying the balance & giveing you the numbers*, 'tis a pretty account indeed. Mrs Oliver only in Norwich had <nothing missing> *not one to return* & not one farthing error in her accounts. Neither have I meet in my accounts this year<ly>, having accounted with all my people (but one) <only> the value of a shilling mistake between us, not even in London it self.

Please to send the inclosed³ to London & the other⁴ to Cambridge &c. Please to pay Collis the 5 guineas upon his signing the receipt.⁵ I don't think it worth wrighting to him & so would take it as a favour if you would <go &> pay him & tell him <nothing>, only I desired you to do it. I hope to get to Norwich at Candlemass. We have heard nothing of Ester⁶ only that she hath been come out from Newcastle 3 weeks. God <only> knows how it is with her. Much wanting the paper, should be glad if <the> I

could <if> have it changed & returnd by Kenninghall post *as to any thing but that & the letters sending, at your own leizure*. I am with the utmost obligation yours to command,
Francis Blomefield.⁷

1. Letter 190.
2. Letter 189.
3. Letter 192.
4. Letter 187.
5. See Letter 181.
6. Esther Blomefield, the author's sister, see Letters 186, 192 and 200.
7. No reply preserved, see also Letter 196.

192. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Trye (f. 11)

To Mr Trye.
November 5. 1737.
Sir,

I received a letter from one Mr Wilson about the cutt;¹ it is a thing I much longed for, please to pay him the 5s for it and tell him, to my great uneasieness, neither my sister nor the gentleman with her, have been heard of since they set sail from Newcastle, and beg of him to send me word the very next post, when they set sail, to what port bound, the ship & name of the master, and I shall take it as the greatest favour imaginable. In great haste, I am yours to command,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Not preserved.
2. No reply preserved.

193. Francis Blomefield to William Pennock (f. 12)

Mr Penock, *woodcutter in London* in Jewen Street Aldersgate Street London next door to the Adam & Eve.
November 5. 1737.

Pray hasten the last orderd arms, and cut me <2> one <lyon ramp> lyon ramp[an]d,¹ a fac[totum], exact the size of the last, & one lyon saliant fac[totum], exact the same size,² & the following arms of the large size - viz Wright &c,³ and express the colours, of

all but the sable and cut that down & make a fac hole to put in the letter. Cut the seal⁴ <inclosed> exact as the draught, for <for> it *is* an admirable good one & return the draught with the seal &c. Be expeditious with them - but send me the last as soon as possible, & these as soon as done. I am yours,
Francis Blomefield.⁵

The seal of Bromhill is pretty exact only <I am most> the outward rim is not in true oval but you can make it so.

1. Woodcut 11.
2. Woodcut not traced.
3. Woodcut 27.
4. Woodcut 28.
5. No reply preserved, see Letter 194.

194. Francis Blomefield to William Pennock (f. 12)

November 25. [1737].

Wrote again to know if he received my 2 letters of orders¹ & to give me a letter &c, & send me Ives & Wrights arms² immediately &c.³

1. The first letter is 193, the other is apparently not preserved.
2. Woodcut 27 and untraced.
3. No reply preserved.

195. Francis Blomefield to Edward Ewer (f. 12)

To Mr Ewer.

November 25. 1737 Fersfield.

Dear Sir &c,

About Lanham's¹ case - your tenant Minter is gone off, I fear there will be some loss in the end, tho' Mr Lanham says he hath not received the money he lett the tithes for, so that if the 1st pay to you be not paid at the day, we can stop their paying & secure that, & more, if there be more due to him, and you may depend upon it my self and Mr Lanham will do the utmost in the affair. Pray let me hear how our affair proceeds. I desired Mr

Havers² when I saw him to see how it went on, in concert with your agent, and he acquaints me that Clark³ appears, & that it goes on as well as can be.

Dear Sir, get it if possible, to be tried at next assises, and insist you will see it further if they will, let the expence be what it will; you will find your advantage in the end. Let me know how you have proceeded because my counsel hath sent to me to know. I have forgot the 1st day of payment of Minter's in your bond, send me word & order to give warning that they don't pay him, if he misses his day.

The letter I sent the C[hancello]^{r4} of which I sent you a copy was not deliverd, he being at London; you have a copy of it, wait on him, & see what you can do, by expostulating with him, I being privately informed if you do so, he will withdraw it. I earnestly beg you would let me know whither you have spoke for the seals, because I am teased to peices for them: if you have not, only inform me, and I can then get them done, only dare not till I hear from you, for fear of having them done twice - had rheumat[ism] &c., Francis Blomefield.⁵

(I have paid the Jus Patr[onatus] Clark paid 2 3ds.)

1. Unidentified.
2. See Letter 195, note 2.
3. See Letter 181, note 1.
4. Letter 183.
5. No reply preserved.

196. Francis Blomefield to Robert Smith (f. 13)

To Mr Smith.

November 25. 1737.

I would beg of you to inform Mrs Chambers¹ I am glad the house is ready, range &c up & Betty in. Hope to come & stay from Candlemass to Lady.

Your opinion of Carlos is right, I have received a letter from him² as little to the purpose as what he talks with you. I omitt writing to him this week because he promises to send me an account of what is due, and who they are that are behind, and that is all I want to know.

Send me in a deal box by Barnes³ the numbers you have, because I have got a rider & my next number being almost fitt, can't send him out till I have them to perfect setts where they are wanting. Ask Sterling⁴ if the iron for my press be come, if it be send it with the box, if not, please to go to any stonecutter & buy me a black marble exactly 22 inches & an 1/2 long & 17 1/2 broad & 2 1/4 or 2 thick & send it with the box if you can get it so soon, if not must stay a week tho' I want it that I know not what to do. Send Stafford's⁵ muller, the stone at 1/2 crown a foot comes to not above 3 crowns, but I must have one. Have taken the whole out of booksellers hands &c.,⁶

1. Blomefield's housekeeper in Norwich.

2. Not preserved.

3. The local carrier.

4. One of Blomefield's note books in the N.R.O., Colman MS. Col/8/6 contains the following note:- "Due to Mr Sterling Painter in Norwich 1/2 li Ivory black, 1 li Turkey stone, my press iron, a fender".

5. A Norwich stonemason.

6. No reply preserved.

197. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 14)

To Mr Toms, at No.19 in Union Court over against St Andrews Holborn London.

December 6. 1737.

Sir,

<With difficulty> I have at last got a bill for 7li which I send you inclosed & desire you would send me a letter of the receipt of

<the money> *it* and <by the first> *when I have* oppertunity I will send you the other <but can't conceive how you make out> *you say in your last*¹ your bill <to be> *is* 10li 05s.9d <as you mention in your last> *which is wrong*. By the account <as you> *<exactly> according to your own* charge, <it is thus it to me & 'tis right> it is this,

<Bill deliverd>	li s d
1737. May 26 To engraving Bokenham Priory ² -	02.02.00
June 11. Paid carriage for paper -	00.02:00
25. Printing 700c Bokenham plates	00.17:06
Act of Parliament -	00:01:00
July 8. Engraving Augustine Briggs monument ³ -	01:01:00
A post letter with Briggs drawings -	00:01:06
August <Sir Andr> Fountains plate ⁴	01:01:00
Cromere church ⁵ -	03:00:00
Spelmans <plates> *heads* ⁶ (when received)/	
550 at 2s 6d per c.	00:13:09
1100 small plates (when received) -	00:08:03
<In all	09:07:00>
October 6. Ives arms ⁷ -	00:10:06
You charged 1s taking the name out but that was not done	
- 100 taken off -	<u>00:00:09</u>
<due this day>	<u>09:19:03</u>
rest due -	02.19.03

I have a great many plates by me to work off, a great number spoken for, and several of them <done> *drawn*, but to say truth, I will never more be out of my own money about them, but when I can get them ready will get that first and then send <me> you them to grave, and know upon seeing the copy, from you before you do them, what I am to pay you, for you <deceive in> *charge contrary to* my expectations every time. I expected to have had Spelmans head at <2s per> 18d per hundred as you wrote me word you would do all my whole plates that did not exceed the half sheet size for, and can't *but* think <(whatever you do) but> that 5s out of 14 is a great deal. And I shall for the future always order you when I have the plate <or> *&* the work is done, *to my satisfaction (as I can't say but whatever I have had of you hitherto hath been)* where to go and take what we agreed for directly.

I have now a parcell of plates to work off, which I will as soon as I can spare time look out, and send one of each and you

shall send word what you will have per hundred for each, & if I like it will send up them & paper for them by the waggon. I am your assured <humble> friend & humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁸

1. Not preserved.
2. Engraving 13.
3. Engraving 4.
4. Engraving 14.
5. Engraving 1.
6. Engraving 15.
7. Engraving not identified.
8. No reply preserved.

198. Francis Blomefield to William Winde (f. 14)

To William Winde Esquire to be left with Fillmer Southouse Esquire upon the Wharff Midle Scotland Yard, London.

December 6. 1737.

Sir,

I received yours of the 28,¹ and am glad to hear that they are now all coming which will inable me to finish the design & send it to you and see if you approve of it, & then shall do as you have directed. I imagine the terms according to the known rules of Heraldry are better expressed by colours than metalls, but that you may have as you please. I hope in about 2 months to have finished every thing & to send <them to you> *the pedigree & history to you*. I should be glad to see you whenever oppertunity offers, and assure you I am your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

My wife & little girl send service.

1. Not preserved.
2. No reply preserved.

199. Francis Blomefield to Jacob Ilive (f. 14)

To Mr *Jacob* Ilive printer by Aldersgate.

December 6. 1737.

Sir,

I received yours of the twenty 4th of the last month,¹ but am determined to have nothing of any one, in your way of letters, 'till I can come and see them put up with my own eyes, & pay for them my self. I am sorry to find the Greek I had of you so very deficient of sorts, now I come to use it, there is not a v <and η> or lower case in the whole <sorts>, nor a capital E <epsilon to answer it>. I desire you would <send/leave> *send* me a quarter of a pound vs or small Rs, & a quarter of a pound Es <with> Mr Trye, <and I who> will pay you what I owe you viz, 9s and 4d 1/2, including 18d for the 1/2 Es & Vs <now> *to be* deliverd. Suppose you will abate the 4d 1/2, when I do buy I will not buy from you, <'till I have seen you> unless we should not agree (sic) but whenever 'tis, shall return some metal. Send me the vs & E very soon for I want them. Am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Not preserved.

2. No reply preserved. Within the body of this letters is the following calculation:-

	s	d
	02	03
	02	07 1/2
	03	00
the vs & Es	<u>01</u>	<u>06</u>
	09	04 1/2

200. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Trye (f. 15)

To Mr Trye Bookseller by Grey's Inn Gate Holborn London.
December 6. 1737.

Sir,

I would begg the favour of you to enquire and inform me whither the following numbers in Jernegan's sale are drawn or no, & if <they> *any* be, what they are, & which are undrawn, viz 3954, 3958, 3959, 3960, 11081, 1182. I being <such a> so weak as to venture those chances on I really know not what. Since my last¹ my sister (I thank God) is got safe home.

I hope you took the cut of the gentleman for me which I desire you would send me down. I must beg the favour of you to pay nine shillings to one <my> Mr Ilive for me,² whom I have ordered to call on you for it, & take the receipt at bottom of him.³ I

shall send the next no. next week, having had it ready some time but had an unexpected call out, & so would not leave it to any one in my absence. I am your most assured friend to command,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

1. Letter 192.
2. See Letter 199.
3. Footnote by Blomefield:- 'Received then of Francis Blomefield clerk, by the hands of Mr Trye the sum of nine shillings in full for imperfections delivered, &

half a pound greek to be deliverd, and all <other> demands, I say received by me.'

4. No reply preserved.

201. Nathaniel Salmon to Francis Blomefield (fols.15-6)

I received the following letter from Mr Salmon the great historian.

November 29 (1737)

Sir,

The freedom I take of asking favours, for one so much a stranger as my self, is not to be justified, but from the experience of receiving them from gentlemen of your tast & your abilities.

Many years ago I read Sir Henry Spelman,¹ and by way of proving the truth of his observations I have in many parts of England enquired into the success of the possessors of stoln goods. As you have had oppertunity of examining, I doubt not, but you are as much convinced as my self. The crime of sacrilege being dropt, there is little hope of <seing> seeing those things restored to better uses. The purchasers of them are under a fatal blindness, not to see the canker that eats out their estates, nor do I know a right owner for any, but what belongs to the parochial altars, if Astrea should revisit these desecrated mansions of Saxon piety. The dreadfull violence of Henry 8 which had the formality of an act of the whole state, has brought down, both upon the Crown, in many instances, and upon the subject, evils greater than captivity probably would have done, not barely a neglect of Religion, but an expulsion of it. And if the same vengeance should new-plant the soil, our neighbours will reflect upon the proofs we have given of our abhorrence of idols.

I have a mind to continue the accompt of the monastery-land-holders, and other families from Sir Harry's time to the present, but would first ask you, if it would interfere with your design: & if it will not, whither I may hope <from> for assistance from you or any other gentlemen of your county. I am apt to think you will not set things in the same light, which that great man has done, so many of your country men being involved in the guilt of that sort of wealth.

To make the best return I can, I am ready here to copy out for you any thing from records in libraries, that may be serviceable to your work, and will if you desire it, look over the last proof of your sheets, which the correctors of this town are very apt to let

pass with gross errors, for want of more knowledge of antiquities.

And if sir you shall think fitt to venture upon any new scheme of interpreting the Itinerary,² I will contribute my best, having had time to correct my own, which was very faulty in your county, yet I have found oppertunity of improving it and keeping still pretty near to what it was before.

Two things I use to begg of our antiquaries, as I stood singly and had no supporters. The first is, that I might take into the account *Castra Exploratorum* upon military ways. This Mr Horsley, Mr Ward and all others deny me, though I can show one place, I don't call it station, by the name of *Castra Exploratorum ad Lineam valli*.³

The next I asked is, I might use the computed miles of England to find my places. I own that I beleive the Roman measurement was by Italick miles, but as I find some Itineraries have come abroad without miles. I will for my convenience suppose ours to have come hither such: and that some Romanized Briton, or later inhabitant has put down, these we have, according to his best knowledge and information. Mr Horsley, who condemned me, admitts the west country miles agreable to the modern mapps, which is giving up his cause.

The remains of towns & fortresses, which I have discoverd by distance only, are a sort of proof to me. Icklingham in your neighbourhood, may pass for one instance, of which place I had never heard anything, 'till I went on purpose to look for it. I intreat the favour of your answer to me in Johnson's Court in Fleetstreet. I am your most obedient servant,
Nathaniel Salmon:⁴

My humble service if you please to Mr Beaupre Bell.

1. H. Spelman, *History of Sacrilege* (London, 1698).
2. The itinerary of Antoninus published by Thomas Gale as *Antonini iter Britanniarum commentarius* (London, 1709).
3. John Horsley, *Britannia Romana* (London, 1732), Ward not identified.
4. Reply Letter 202.

202. Francis Blomefield to Nathaniel Salmon (fols.16-7)

To Mr Salmon in Johnson's Court Fleetstreet London.

December 7. 1737.

Sir,

I received yours,¹ <of the 29th> and could not omit answering it any longer, being glad to find <I have> there is any body alive (besides my self) of the <real> *same* opinion with that worthy knight; an opinion, as rightly observed in yours <that is> quite <d> dropt, nowadays, in order to avoid (if possible) that self conviction which <must/ will> naturally <flow> arises in the minds of all <men, that really beleive it, and are possessors> sensible men, that are in possession of <the Lord's> the Lord's <Vy> Vineyard.

<To pove / prove this> I <remember> *As a proof of this I* have *been* credibly informed that a certain great person <very> near me, a man of the utmost judgment in the law, <who> who <had> had purchased <a large estate of> near 3000li a year, (the whole which except <an p/an estate of> about 200li <per an> was all church land *& tithes*) was some time after showing his estate to <several> *his* friends, and coming to that <of 200li per an/part> he adresses his friends in this manner - But this was *never church land* An argument <to me> that tho' his interest prevaild, his conscience could not be quite silent.

Your design (if I rightly understand you) will not in the least interfere with my work. In my history indeed, I shall show how the church lands and monasteries have passed from their dissolution to this time, but shall make no reflections (as I could do) on their <[illegible]> abundant variations, nor on such misfortunes as <may> have attended the possessors, it being a point in my opinion very tender, and against all such I have openly declared in my <preface> *introduction* viz. that my whole design is, to <deliver> *write* nothing but the truth, to the best of my knowledge, and that, with an honourable respect to every one. It not being my province to concern myself with the dishonourable or bad actions of any present family, so that if <there be> *I know* anything honourable I always insert it, if otherwise I am under no obligation to mention it at all.

I shall always to the best of my <poor> abilities, give you any assistance in the affair, <that I am able>, and can't but thank you for your kind offers of transcribing or correcting for me, the 1st of which I shall be too apt to trouble you in, but for the latter, I was so sensible of the incorectness (as you mention) of the London

printers, that I purchased a press, and gott a printer, and so print my work in my own house, as I proposed *to do* in my <preface> *introduction*, so that it is entirely in my own hands, & if there be (as I know there are) several nostrums in the printing according to the word, they are really *my own*.²

I remember when I was at College I purchased your Roman Stations³ &c printed at London 1726 with which I was well pleased, though I own to you, was so farr from approving what was said of the parts I was acquainted with, that with the help of a friend that lives near me, I had drawn up a peice, about the size of yours, directly against it, and got yours bound up with paper at the end to have wrote it fair on, (which I have now by me) and left it in my chamber, <but never> one afternoon, but never saw nor heard of it, from that day to this, tho' I made a great noise with my bedmaker about it, and at last was forced to conclude that she either burnt it to kindle the fire, or else, 2 or 3 lads of my acquaintance, who came into the room *in my absence, took* <stole> it, which last I had afterwards most reasons to <ex> *suspect*.

My next number⁴ begins Thetford, which I make no dispute, <but> was the ancient Sitomagus *(the Venta Icenorum as I imagine being at neither of the Castors)*. I shall not go on any new scheme of interpreting the Itinerary *but* only say that in my opinion, such & such places were so called by the Romans *& give my reasons or some of them at least for it.* The other <way> would take me so much time which I can not spare. I should be <extre> very glad of a further correspondence with so judicious an antiquary & historian, as without flattery, your works <show me, you> prove you to be. I am your very humble servant,
Francis Blomefield⁵

1. Letter 201.
2. Marginal note 'and I hope if you can do me any service <in get> helping me to any subscribers you will'.
3. N. Salmon, *Roman Stations in Britain* (London, 1726).
4. Vol.1, number 14.
5. No further correspondence preserved

203. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Le Strange (f. 18)

To Sir Thomas Le Strange Knight at Hunstanton.

Fersfield December 13. 1737.

Sir,

<I hope you will be so good as to> *Your wonted goodness, I hope will* pardon <my troubling you with this which> *this trouble, it* comes to begg <the favour, at your convenience of> a line or two, at <your own/any convenient time> *your convenience*, to inform me, whither I may be <so far> favoured, <as to have> *with* a copy of the pedigree of your ancient and worthy family, to insert in<to> my History of Norfolk, or if that be not granted whither <you would give yourself the trouble, to compare> *I may have* one of my own drawing from *my own &* Mr Le Neve's collections *compared* with it, <that I may have no errors in it,> *to avoid errors*. I perceive by the many letters, <concerning it> in his collections, that you have a most exact one, and hope <that> I may be indulged in the latter, if the former be too much trouble.

I shall *soon* begin <very soon> to put Smithdon Hundred together,¹ in order <for> to have it with me in the Spring, when I design to see every place <in it>, before I publish it, and should be extream glad <of if> if <yourself> you or any other gentlemen, <in that hundred> would favour me with any plates toward <imbelishing my> *adorning the* work, <I> *&* I should be <exceeding> obliged either for your arms, to place at the head of the pedigree, or for a plate of Sir <John> *Roger* Lestranger's stone, in Hunstanton church, which I see by the draught is a very <per> particular one, or for any thing else, that <your superior judgment may/shall> approve of, <I> *&* should <think> *esteem* it a great honour, <if I might> *to* have your name among my subscribers, <and am> *being* resolved <for the future>, that <my booksellers> *those that published <them for me> my numbers for me* shall <dis> not have it in their power to disoblige any <more> gentlemen, that have done me that honour, by letting out their numbers to read <and so dirtying> for a month or two before they deliver them, in a dirty condition, as they must <me> *be* after <such usage> *so much use*. And therefore I have taken them entirely out of their hands, <and propose/have determined> *and* for the future, <to deliver all the numbers> have agreed with the bearer, <who hath undertaken> to <lay> deliver every <man's> number at the subscribers houses, & receive the money, as they are published, without any additional charge, <to the subscribers, and to compleat> and to compleat all gentlemen's sets, that have been carlesly omitted to be sent.

<I should be very much obliged for your encouragement and interest, in your part, and hope> When I have done what I can, as to the history of <it> *of the hundred* you <will> *& the neighbouring gentlemen will I hope* be so <good> *kind* as to <add / inf / give me what information> *inform me* <in those things that> *where* I am deficient in, <in your parts> as I must be, in many *things,* in a part so remote from me. <And it> *Hoping for your encouragement & interest, which* shall ever be gratefully acknowledged, <by> I beg leave to subscribe my *self* your most humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Blomefield did not complete Smithdon Hundred; the L'Estrange pedigree eventually appeared in Vol. 5 1265.
2. No reply preserved. Sir Thomas did however subscribe to the work.

204. Francis Blomefield to Lord Lovell (f. 19)

To Lord Lovell at Holkham
Fersfield December 13.1737.
My Lord,

Beging pardon for my presumption in <giving> troubling you with this, I hope your Lordship will not be offended at my humble request, which is, that I may be so far favoured, at any *agreable* oppertunity, <agreable to your Lordship,> as to have <whatever/whatever> a copy of the pedigree of your <worshipfull> *honourable* family, <& what ever> *or any* other genealogical notes, that <I> your lordship shall think *fit* to order, <for> *for* me <a> to insert in my History of Norfolk.¹ If to which, I hope <I may> *to* have the honour of adding your <my> name as a subscriber, <which> *&*& if I be so far favoured, will take care the<y> *numbers* shall be delivered, by my rider, *the bearer, who is for that purpose* at your <own> own house as they are published.

If it be not too presumptuous, and your Lordship <vouchsafe / does me that / the honour to> permits me to insert your pedigree, I hope, <you> a plate of your arms, or one of the monument of your most illustrious ancestor in Titleshall church,² will not be denied me. I assure your Lordship, I dare not have <been thus bold> been thus bold <with a person of your>³ if I had not meet with some <hope> *hope* from Sir Andrew Fountain, (to

whom I mentioned my design of writing to your Lordship) that you would be not offended with it. I am your Lordships most obedient humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

1. Blomefield did not complete North Greenhoe Hundred in which Holkham Hall was situated.
2. The monument of Sir Edward Coke, Lord Chief Justice.
3. This letter and Letter 205 (to Lord Hobart) were identical until this point, but differed thereafter.
4. No further correspondence. Lord Lovell subscribed to the work, but not for any illustrations.

205. Francis Blomefield to Lord Hobart (f. 19)

Mutat. mutand to Lord Hobart.¹
Jan 4. [1737].

Asked for copy of pedigree, to subscribe plate of arms, or Hall - of Attorney General,² Lod[don] Chu[rch] *& of St Olave Bridge* or of your illustrious ancestor the Attorney General with his pious & beneficial works of the church & bridge.

*To Lord Hobart

had not the known candour of your lordship & the success & encouragment I have mett with from persons of distinction in this county prompted me to it.*³

1. The first part of this letter was largely the same as that sent to Lord Lovell (Letter 204) and was not transcribed by Blomefield, except for these additional few lines.
2. Sir James Hobart, Attorney General to Henry VIII.
3. No further correspondence. Lord Hobart did not subscribe to the work.

206 Francis Blomefield to Hugh Hare (fols.19-20)

To the Reverend Mr Hare at Dry Docking.
Fersfield December 13, 1737.
Reverend Sir,

I designd about six weeks ago, to have called on you at Docking, intending then to have surveyed the Hundred,¹ before I

<composed> had put together what materials I already have but find it the best way to do that first, because then I shall the <most> *more* easily know what I want, when I survey it, which made me put off seeing that part 'till next Spring, when I hope to have the pleasure of calling on you.

I find my publishers have made free with my numbers and not deliverd them regularly to my subscribers, but lett <you> them out to the reading till they are dirty & then sent them, by which means some are, as they may well be, much disoblged, for which reason I have agreed with the bearer, to deliver every number fair, as they are published at the subscribers houses, & receive the money for them, without any additional charge to <the subscribers> *them*. I hope you will favour me with your interest in the affair, & if a plate be agreable, shall gratefully acknowledge it. With service to your self <goo> & good family. I am your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield²

Accept a Cromere church.³

1. Smithdon Hundred.
2. No further correspondence.
3. The illustration of Cromer church commissioned by Tanner, Engraving 1.

207. Francis Blomefield to Samuel Kerrich (f. 20)

To the Reverend Doctor Kerrich Rector of Darsingham
Fersfield December 13. 1737.
Reverend Sir,

At the time I designed, I set out with Honest Tom Martin in order for Darsingham, but the weather proving bad & having the good fortune to load ourselves with antiquity before we reached Lyn, and my companion loosing 2 days there <with> by loading himself with a stronger, tho' not heavier burthen,¹ I determined to return, & <to> wait on you in the spring, by which time I hope to have drawn up the Hundred² and then upon view, shall the better know what I am defficient in.

I have agreed with the bearer to lay out & receive the money for all my future numbers at the subscribers houses. Finding my old publishers used to lett them out to be read a fortnight or 3 weeks, & then sent them dirty to their owners, which hath

occasiond several to be angry and complain of it to me, which <I have recei> made me avoid it for the future by this method, which shall be no charge to the subscribers, being willing to be at it my self, rather than so many gentlemen shall be served in that manner. If you see <Norfolk> *our parts* this winter, I shall be glad if you & <Lady> *your spouse* would come & spend a week with us, assuring you of sincere welcome to such entertainment as I can give you. With service I am your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

A Cromere church sent.⁴

1. Martin was renowned for his heavy drinking.
2. Freebridge Hundred.
3. No further correspondence.
4. See Letter 206 note 3.

208. Francis Blomefield to Beaupre Bell (fols.20-1)

To Beaupre Bell Esquire at Beaupre Hall.

Fersfield December 13. 1737.

Dear Sir,

I should be glad to hear of your health, and much more so, to see you <with me>, it now being in your power to <do> *give* me that pleasure <& honour> assuring you I <should be glader> *desire* to see no one *more* <sooner> than your self. I hope your study is fixed by this time, and that you are got quite settled. <I should be / my wife would be glad to the gentlewoman that entertains>

I am sorry to find <Mr Samuell send you such dirty> your numbers <as> *were sent* so dirty & bad, as <I fin> to be returned, but *perceive* <find> 'twas a common practice for my publishers to lett them out to the reading 3 weeks or a month before they sent them to their owners, if ever they sent them at all, I have now discharged them all & agreed with the bearer (without any further charge to the subscribers) to leave them fair & clean as they are published at every subscribers house, in the county of Norfolk, & receive the mony for them, and then I shall be sure they are deliverd fair clean & regular.

I should be glad to hear when your <coins> *book* comes out.¹ I have 6 copies spoke for, which I desire you would remember, if you publish it, (as I asserted (from your own mouth) you would, having seen the plates), against a company that

affirmed the contrary. If you have any damaged nos the bearer will change them, & compleat them <to> as far as published. I hope to have a monthly oppertunity, now, by my rider of hearing from you. Mr Salmon (the historian) gives his service to you, in a letter I had from him the other day.² I am your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield³

1. See Letter 75 note 2.
2. Letter 201.
3. No further correspondence.

209. Francis Blomefield to Robert Underwood (f. 21)

To Mr Underwood, Lyn.
Fersfield December 13. 1737.
Sir,

I could not omitt acquainting you by the 1st oppertunity that we *have* got the old wrightings home, but Mr Martin advises me not to inspect them 'till Mr Mackarell¹ hath returned his, which we beg the favour of, in order to make the series compleat.

Not liking to have my numbers lett out to the reading at 2d or 3d a book, instead of being deliverd to my subscribers, I have employd the bearer constantly to lay them out at every subscriber's house in the county, & receive the money, as they are published, fair clean, & undamaged, without any further expence to my subscribers, so that as he will be monthly with you, should take it as a favour, you would send them by him when they are returnd.

Mr Winde is well, Mr Martin gives his service. My wife joins with me in respects to your self and spouse & we earnestly wish, we could have the pleasure of your company with us at Fersfield this Xmass, assuring you, we would endeavour to make it, (as we heartily wish it to you both) a real merry one. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

([Marginal note] Cromere, Elmham & the seal plate.³)

1. Benjamin Mackerell, see Letters 58 and 59.
2. No reply preserved.
3. Engravings 1, 16, and 17.

210. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Colborn (fols.21-2)

To the Reverend Mr <Walpole> *Colborn* Rector of Walpole.
Fersfield December 13. 1737.

Reverend Sir,

I hope you received my letter <by> as directed,¹ tho' seeing how my publishers managed <it> for me, am affraid of it. Should be glad to hear, whither my Lord² <designs me favour of it> continues his designed favour, and if he does, should be obligd to you to inform me how I may direct a letter of thanks to him.

I have a copper plate given me,³ I send you a print inclosed, of one of the Goddard family, said to be in the church windows of Walpole & Terington, should be glad to know if there is any such now. Finding my old publishers, instead of delivering my numbers, lett them out to the reading at 2d or 3d a peice & so after long detaining them sent them dirty to every subscribers, I have employd the bearer, to lay them out, at my subscribers house, & receive the money for them, by which means they will be deliverd clean undamaged & regularly, & I shall be sure all are served. A word or two by the bear[er] would oblige your very humble servant, Francis Blomefield.⁴

1. Not preserved.

2. Probably Henry Hare, Lord Coleraine, who subsequently subscribed a plate of St Peter's Church Walpole (ultimately published in Volume 4. 716).

3. Engraving 18.

4. No further correspondence.

211. Francis Blomefield to Charles Squire (f. 22)

To the Reverend Mr Squire at Lyn,
Fersfield December 13. 1737.

Reverend Sir,

I had waited on you when at Lyn last, but found you was too ill for company. Am glad to hear of your recovery, will take care and return your books safe, after I have printed Lyn, and assure you the book¹ hath not been out of my study since I had it, tho' I perceive it is *nonetheless* printed² by a copy taken as given out eleven years ago. I thought I ought to let you know it, otherwise you might have imagined I lent out your book. I am your very

humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

1. John Green's church notes, relating to Kings Lynn (Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Norfolk 21).
2. This manuscript was printed in Benjamin Mackerell, *The History and Antiquities of the Flourishing Corporation of Kings Lynn* (London, 1738), which, despite the date on the title page, appeared in late 1737 (see Letters 220-1).
3. No further correspondence.

212. Francis Blomefield to David Samuel (f. 22)

To Mr Samuel,
December 13. 1737.
Sir,

I desire you would pay Mr Hussey the 5li 10s who will deliver you <the bill> *your note*. I shall not trouble you with any more numbers, not expecting to have found so many at Swaffham where I was obliged to pay a 2d part of this very money I had taken your bill for. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.¹

1. No further correspondence.

213. Francis Blomefield to Charles Parkin (f. 22)

[Undated but probably December 13. 1737.]
To Mr Parkyn.
Dear Sir,

I hope & expect to see you this Xmass to stay with me, and that your good sister will come with you. Be so good as to bring Grimshoe Hundred with you, I beseech you, having only Thetford before I am at it. Mr Martin begs you would bring 2 of your deeds viz. Letheringham & another in Suffolk, (but which I forget) to drawn the seals & he will return you them. Pray my service to all friends, & give me a line by the bearer when I shall expect you - don't Mr Laurence come with you? I am your <humble servant>
most obligd humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.¹

[Footnote by Blomefield] (Elmhams) (Cromere) (Briggs Norwich) seal
Lyn) Goddard.²

1. No reply preserved.
2. Engravings 16, 1, 4, possibly 17, and 18.

214. Francis Blomefield to Isaac Youngs (f. 23)

To Mr Youngs at Wisbitch.
Fersfield December 13. 1737.
Sir,

I am informed <that> you was angry that any of the numbers of the History of Norfolk were sent to you, because you say, you was no subscriber. However to satisfye you that if I had not found you such, you had not been troubled with them, I have sent <you> the subscription *paper* with your name thereon, which <I beleive might be> *come* <from> my couzin Youngs¹ of Swaffham who<se> returned <me that paper> <it to me thus signed>, <however> I am very easie *about it*, only <thought> *think* you ought to have <returned them> *sent them back* at first & not kept them <near> a year & spoiled them, as Mr Samuel² informs you did, & then returned them. I am yours,
Francis Blomefield³

1. Benjamin Youngs of Swaffham.
2. David Samuel, bookseller of King's Lynn.
3. No further correspondence.

215. Francis Blomefield to William Toms (f. 23)

To Mr Toms.
December 14. 1737.
Sir,

I received yours¹ & am glad you have received the money. I assure you 'twas not because I had not the things deliverd, (which I received yesterday) that I did not send the rest, but because I had no more money in the hand of the person that drew the bill. I design to send you a <turkey> *fowl* this Xmass, if it be worth your acceptance, and desire you <would> *will* send me word what you will have per hundred for each of the inclosed plates taking off,

if I send them with paper for them, that I may judge whither it will be worth my while.

The woman kneeling,² & the old deed³ <&> want no manner of alteration. The seal of the man on horseback⁴ to have a stroke added to the G & made an E. The great seal of Norwich⁵ to be alterd as directions on it, and the subscription under Elmham Church⁶ - & let me know the charge, which I think can't be a great deal. I shall want 550 of some and some more & some less. I don't know how soon I shall send any more plates to be graved tho' think it will be not long. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁷

1. Not preserved.
2. Engraving 19.
3. Engraving 20.
4. Engraving 17.
5. Engraving unidentified, possibly 21.
6. Engraving 22.
7. No further correspondence.

216. Francis Blomefield to the Sidney Sisters (fols. 23-4)

To the Miss Sidneys at Ranworth.

December 1737.

Ladies,

<Not having the honour of a personal kn[?]. I hope tha> *Tho' I* have not the honour of <knowing you / being acquainted with you, / knowing you> *acquaintance*, hope you will excuse <the trouble> this *trouble*, which comes to <inform you that> begg the favour of a line or two at your convenience, to inform me, if you will please to favour me with a plate of your <illustrious> ancestors' <the> monument in Walsingham chancell¹ to insert in my History of Norfolk, or if you can furnish me with any genealogical or historical notes of your family, or a pedigree of it, <th> to compare with the pedigree <or acc> & accounts I have <of it> already. They shall be <both> speedily and safely returned.

I should be very glad <to have> *of* the honour of your names in my list of subscribers, <for my History of Norfolk,> and if you favour me so far, the bearer hereof, (who is my rider, for that purpose) can furnish you with the numbers already published, and will constantly leave them <at the/with you>, as they come out,

with [sic] any <manner of> trouble, or <any additional> expence, other*wise* than the 12d for each number as delivered, which was what I at first proposed. I should not have been so free as to have taken this liberty, had not Mr Jermy assured me, he beleived it would give no offence. I am your most humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Sir Henry Sidney, d.1612.
2. No reply preserved, no further correspondence; Miss Sidney and her sister did not subscribe to the history.

217. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Trye (f. 24)

To Mr Trye.
December 13. 1737.
Sir,

I must beg the favour of you to send me down 3 reams of paper as good and large & every way like the sheet this letter is wrote upon. Please to direct it for me, to be left at the Swan in Herlingmarket, Norfolk, by Mr Allen's Waggon, which setts up at the Bull in Bishopgate & comes out thence evry Friday in the afternoon, and let me know the price per ream. This waggon is lately come hither & is a great convenience for me, don't <1 word illegible> omitt the paper by the 1st return. I design a turkey for your acceptance, and will manage you shall have it against Xmass day, if I can. Will send no.13 by the return of the Waggon. I am your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.¹

N.B. the specimen I sent up was 12s. 6d price.

1. No reply preserved.

218. Francis Blomefield to Henry Ward (f. 24)

To Mr Ward at Newcastle
December 14. 1737.
Dear Sir,

I've sent to know the charge of an iron proper dimensions & 1 inche and 1/2 quarter thick & if it could be made smooth and

levell &c.¹

1. No reply preserved, but see Letter 219.

219. Francis Blomefield to Henry Ward (f. 24)

By letter January 18. [1737/8] ordered one, to be packt up in a deal box & send to Thetford.¹

1. See Letter 218. No further correspondence.

220. Francis Blomefield to Robert Smith (f. 25)

To Mr Smith at Norwich.

December 15. 1737.

Good Sir,

I have returned Mr Carlos's account, and would get a discharge <but much fear th / he have received a good part of the money which he have here make and>. I have left his letter¹ for you to see. <In this account Chase is debtor to me one pound and eleven shillings, which Mr Carlos used to lay he took upon himself, please to settle that right.> I have had no book bound nor magazines since the account stated but November only, so that <that> *there* is 3 shillings *overchargd* and since the 18. 4s. 6d was the balance you deliverd him 6 nos. 12 *which published so come to 5/6* that that is <9> *8* shillings *in all* to be added to his balance of 3/5/6- & you must take for me 3li <14> *13*s 0d, *he charging for the 76 nos at 6d too much*, and give him my general discharge which is inclosed, and let him sign me mine that is inclosed & particularly this account which I desire you would speedily return me signed. I shall be glad to have done with him <and Chase, whom you must allow the pound given 35 out of the 1li 2s for laying them out and no more>.

I beg you would buy 4 turkeys for me as good ones as you can, the 1st for your own self to remember us over on Christmas Day, the next for Mrs Chambers, the 3d please to pack up, pay the carriage & send it to London, thus directed - for Mr Thomas Trye Bookseller by Grays Inn Gate Holbourn London, the <for> last do the same, & direct it for Mr Henry Toms Engraver, at No.19 Union Court over against St Andrews Holborn London. I will take care &

answer any charge about them.

I have received also Mr Chase's account, he is very conning & seems to think he was not so much in the right. I have not sealed his letter,² look on it & manage accordingly, and do as by Carlos get quit & discharges.

Pray send me the marble for the press. Please at your leizure to ask Mr Stafford³ if he will take an iron I have which want to have its face levelled, and use it to pollish his stones with 'till it is levell, that being the only way to level my press iron as I am informed by the best judges, & the iron being smooth *& heavy* I am told 'twill pollish <very> the stone very fast. I am your most troublesome friend,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

A Merry Xmass to all. Take care I be not jaild for any rates or dues for my house, but please to look to it. Pay him for 8 Crossgrove's papers⁵ which extends up to Xmass day, & for Mackerell's book⁶ if he hath it for you. Buy a good chicken or fowl with your turkey & give it Betty at my house for her Xmass dinner.

1. Letter 222.

2. Letter 221.

3. A Norwich stonemason.

4. No reply preserved.

5. Advertisements in Henry Crossgrove's *Norwich Gazette*.

6. Benjamin Mackerell, *The History and Antiquities of the Flourishing Corporation of Kings Lynn*, (London, 1738).

221. Francis Blomefield to William Chase (f. 26)

To Mr Chase Bookseller in Norwich.

Fersfield December 16. 1737.

Sir,

I received yours,¹ for which I thank you, and shall be as willing to make use of Mr Chase in his way, as any <other> man whatever. I own I was <directly angry about the> *uneasie as to the* advertisements, and am now quite satisfied about them, it being my *desire* <to be willing> always to pay as other people & not more.

I did not at all doubt your pay for the 102 nos nor should have done had it been a 100 times as much. I received the 14

numbers safe back again, but you mistake in charging me for laying them out when you returnd them. Mr Carlos have returnd <me> what nos were owing to me, the 31 numbers mentiond in yours that you received of him were among them so that you are accountable to me for them, & I have <thrown> put them into the account and allowd 2d for laying out each number that you laid out. I dare say you will find <my> *the* account right, and if you please to pay Mr Smith the balance he will deliver the account with my receipt on it, and be so kind as to send my receipt signd by yourself & then everything will be clear between us.

For the future I will send the eight numbers you desire, <on> if you will <please to assure me positive / lay them out at 2s in the pound> assure me, you will neither lend them, not [sic] lett them out to the reading <of> *to* anyone <before they are/ before they are deliverd> for my subscribers have complained exceedingly to me about it, and I find 'tis what my publishers in general have done, for which reason I design to lay *out* every number in this county <out>, at the subscribers own houses, by riders for that purpose, but would not be unfair to any person in trade, so that if you think fitt, my rider shall leave them and take the money (to hinder all trouble of accounts,) and <will allow 2 shillings in> deduct every time out of it, at the rate of 2s per pound, whatever quantity of numbers there are, and *then* there will be no occasion for any bill because I give <my rider> *him* a general authority to lay them out & take the money for me.

<If you have Mr Mackerell's book,² give it to Mr Smith & he will pay> I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield³

N.B. I did not put the item "for 2 nos omitted - 2s" for the account at all, because I dont know <what nos they are> rightly what *nos* you mean <by the item>.

1. Not preserved.
2. See letter 220, note 6.
3. No further correspondence.

222. Francis Blomefield to James Carlos (f. 27)

To Mr Carlos.

December 16. 1737.

Sir,

I received the account you sent,¹ which comes to 114. 18s and desire you would sign the note at bottom <because> for fear of any mistake, for I send to Mrs Hunt, who stands charged with 8 numbers unpaid for, & she assures *she paid* <me> Mr Soley² *paid* for them all & that she <imagines> expects he paid you for them.

I have taken Mr Chase's into his account, he sending me word he had received 31 nos according to the account, <which is faulty in this point only> which is mistaken as to the balance thus - you have overcharged your self 6d in the 76 numbers which come to but 3li 16.

I have had no magazines nor book bound since the last account, only the magazine for November, <all Crosgroves B / magazines being included in the account to November 1,³> so that there is 3 shillings overcharged there, & six no. 12 that you received of Mr Smith since the last account which you have not charged, which come to 5s. & 6d, laying out deducted, so that there is 8 shillings to be added to your balance of 3.5.6 <& as it should be> as it should be 8s. & the exact balance is 3li 13s, which if you please to pay Mr Smith he will give you a general discharge I sent him,⁴ and please to send me the account & your bill signed, and then we shall be entire clear to this day.

Send me Mr Mackerell's book if it be <come> out & let Mr Smith pay for it,⁵ as also for what Crossgroves are due to Xmass day viz 8. all to November 1. being in the account.

<Please to inform me I perceive there are 13 / many nos unpaid for did they leave off or are they nos charged because> /For the future I design to be troubled with no accounts whatever, but to lay out every number at the subscribers own houses by riders for that purpose, but would not be unfair to any person in trade, so that for the future (if you think fitt) my rider shall leave any quantity of numbers that you please, and take the money at the delivery of them discounting <at> 2s in the pound as I have done hitherto, on condition you acquaint me, who every number goes to (that I may not be at the trouble of sending my rider there) and also assure me upon your word and honour, that you will neither lend, not lett out any of my numbers to be read by any body, for

my subscribers have complained to me about it. And I find 'tis
what my publishers

in general have hitherto done, to my very great prejudice.]
I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁶

[Marginal note] [-] This part for my next letter & not sent now.

1. Not preserved.
2. Probably John Soley, Rector of Long Stratton.
3. The sub-title for the *Norwich Gazette* was *Crossgrove's Magazine*.
4. See Letter 220.
5. See letter 220, note 6.
6. No further correspondence preserved.

223. Francis Blomefield to Frances Oliver (f. 28)

To Mrs Oliver Bookseller in Norwich.
December 1737.
Madam,

I have sent your numbers as usual. Mr Carlos among the debtors he hath returned me for numbers, makes Mr Le Warner to owe me, for four nos, which he had of him, before he took the rest of you, viz. no. 1.2.3.4. and I beleive it is right because I perceive you began to lay out for him at no.5. Please to inform me if you will place the 4s to your account for which I shall be willing to allow the same as if layd out by you, or if you don't choose it, I must send to him for it.

I earnestly begg you would not let any body read your subscribers nos *before you deliver them*, for they have complained exceedingly to me upon that point, and upon inquiry I find most of my publishers have both lent & lett them out to the reading. I <we> don't beleive you ever did, and therefore think my self much obligd to you upon that account <and earnest> and dare say I need not fear it for the future. I am your very humble servant,
Francis Blomefield¹

1. No further correspondence.

224. Francis Blomefield to Jacob Ilive (f. 28)

To Mr Ilive &c.

January 13. 1737[/8].

Sir,

I find by Mr Trye,¹ he hath paid you the whole I owed you
and 18d for <the> a quarter *of a* pound of <E small> capital
Greek Es & a quarter of a pound of Vs or lower case

Greek ns. *according to my order*. I have received some small capital English Es but not one Greek v. <and> *pray* send me *them* for I stay for them *even now wanting them &* without them, the Greek which you sold me as perfect, is not so, <&> *but* good for nothing. I expected smaller Es in proportion to the other Greek capitals & not English small capitals of which I had enough. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Not preserved, see Letter 200.
2. No further correspondence.

225. Francis Blomefield to William Pennock (f. 28)

January 18. 1737[/8].

Sent to Mr Pennock to hasten down the things & will order him where to call for them.¹

1. No further correspondence.

226. Francis Blomefield to Edward Ewer (fols. 27-9)

To Mr Ewer.

January 18. 1737[/8].

Dear Sir,

I received yours,¹ which gave me much satisfaction to hear you & good spouse are alive & well as I bless God we are. I perceive by yours, your agent hath taken care of your affair, & Mr Havers who I desired to give me an account tells me, things are properly done in order for a trial at Bury Assizes.² As soon as you can, let me know the whole of the proceedings & what is further to be done, because then I will go to Ipswich to my council, and let me know what is wanting that I may be looking out in time.

I thank you for your trouble & have here inclose the arms to be graved on the seals viz. the arms alike, only one must be exact as this is with a crescent, the other must have no crescent, but a mullet of five in its place, be so good as to get them done as soon as you can, & send me them with the charge. *Always direct your letters to Mr Smith at Norwich.*

Mr Lanham will be glad to hear about his affair & whither

the money be taken out or no. Minter's case is actually desperate, such nos of writts being now against him, he totally absconds, & tho' the parishioners have not payd him, yet he hath reckonings with them, so that I can't find I can get above 6li in the whole, and know not what to do.

As to the sequestration affair, don't stir an inch about it, Clark hath caught himself abominably by giving security to the court for the profitts & now he dare not meddle with them (I fancy) having made out as well as my self that (C--k the tenant can't stand it long) but however I take no notice. He gave out he would take the money this Xmass time but yet he hath made no appearance & I am informed is confoundedly netled about it. For if things go according to my expectations his worship must be accountable & not C-k. We all join in service to your self & good family, assuring you I am your most sincere & obligd friend & humble servant,
Francis Blomefield³

1. Not preserved.
2. See Letter 195.
3. No further correspondence.

227. Francis Blomefield to John Lang (f. 29)

To John Lang esquire at Baconsthorp.
Fersfield January 4. 1737[/8].
Worthy Sir,

Being informed by several gentlemen of my acquaintance of your forwardness to assist any publick work, I was induced to trouble you with this, hoping I may have the favour as well as honour <of> to add your name to the list of my subscribers to my History of Norfolk. I did not request this favour of any gentleman, 'till I had published several numbers as specimens, but have the good fortune to find that I can prosecute the work, and so now imagine it is but right to apply to such gentlemen as your self. If you favour me so far, the bearer (who is my rider for that purpose) can supply you with the <13> numbers already published.

I hope if you can give me any further account than what I know, of your ancient seat, you will be so kind as to do it, when I shall call on you to show you what account I have, before I publish it. I am your humble servant,

Francis Blomefield¹

1. No further correspondence. Lang did not subscribe to the work.

228. Francis Blomefield to William Winde (f. 30)

Letter to Mr Winde in answer to his of April 6.¹ on file -
April 13. 1738.

Sir,

I received your kind letter for which I thank you. I have spoke to Mr Martin to enquire about your name sake & to get a pedigree of his Gen[eratio?]n. I am on the pedigree & have gone some way in it.

I should take it as a favour if you would take the numbers of the bookseller, for I am convinced they will be <dir> more dirty if he keeps them, than if yourself kept them <as I am convinced> by such numbers as I have had returned.

I have gone now a great way, where there have been neither tomb nor family of account, so that there were really none to contribute - except one - and indeed in this part I am going to, I meet with pretty good success, tho' I must own to you as a friend I don't find many people of your generous temper, having been forced to keep <a plate or two that was> *some things that were* ordered from being published, purely because they deny paying the money agreed, which you know must be prejudicial to me. And indeed, I am out of so much money beforehand, that it often occasions me to want, when otherwise I should not.

<I des> I heartily thank you for your kind offer, and whatever you shall think fitt to pay on my account to Mr Trye my bookseller, *it* will be the same as to myself, and he will give you a receipt to my use, being forced to have money always in his hands to carry on that part of my work that lies in the city. The following are what we resolved on when at Fersfield - on a brass fillet, John Wynde's inscription/ Winde's arms quarterd & marshalled with his 16 coats impaling Lady Austen & her quarterings <in a whole plate / a whole plate> of the tomb of H.W. at Bergen ap Zoom / a flat stone of Howard in Richmond Church in Surry/ a pedigree or genealogicall table of Winde *printed* / the tomb at South Wotton / the hatchment & quarterings of Lady Austen in Boxly church/ all which I <the> proposed at 24 guineas.² But if your mind any way alters to omitt any or add any, please to inform me, and if *it does not* let me know which I shall go about first, for if they be all done it is high time to be about some of them.

I hope this summer will <call> *invite* you down in to the country, where I hope to see you. My wife joins with me in service. I am your most obliged humble servant,

Francis Blomefield.³

1. Not preserved.
2. Of these, only the tomb of Thomas Winde at South Wotton was eventually completed (Engraving 9).
3. No reply preserved, see Letter 229.

229. Francis Blomefield to William Winde (fols.31-4)

To William Winde Esquire.

May <18> *24* 1738.

Good Sir,

Herewith you receive the pedigree and historical account of your family exact <s> as *to be* entered in my Norfolk History under South Wotton, <I am now upon Marshland and as you are possessed of part of Terrington Manor, I imagine it would come properly enough in there however.> *I* submit the whole to your perusal and inspection, desiring you would add, alter, or diminish whatever you think proper. <I design to place all the arms in the pedigree in shields as there expressed, but if you think the charge too much will omit the arms or any other plates, not desiring you to go to more charge than is agreeable>.

If you please to give me directions concerning the pedigree, books & originals <deeds and papers> which I am now comparing (having only examined all the books as yet, but don't doubt but the originals agree, they being extracted by some very judicious person as I perceive) I shall punctually obey your orders. <In the same / in the same mentioned in my last,¹ the arms for the pedigrees (and all carriage paid included / when you have> *When you have altered* <done> *altered* what you please <to them, please> *be so good as* to return them to me *as soon as you can,* I having no *other* copies of <either the pedigree or history² / nor pedigree / *them*>, that I dare <print from> *trust to* but these, which I will transcribe & send you fair ones of when <and then will send a fair one as altered & the arms & cuts that be done with expedition.> I have them altered from you, according to your mind.

I received your kind letter of the 16th.³ <I> have ordered Mr Trye to send you a set, and have inclosed my own pedigree to be placed at fo.744 As to those designed for another person, I will by no means expect any thing for, 'twas sufficient you was so kind as to make trial, so pray don't mention them <no more>. Mr

Williamson is dead, and Mr Trye is his nephew & was his partner, a very honest man I dare say, having been used handsomely by him hitherto. His name is Thomas & lives by Grays Inn Gate in Mr Williamson's shop. <I have ordered him to wait on you with a set. The price of the fillet was 5s, and the total 24 guineas>.

I am obliged to you for your generosity and assure you I will do my endeavour <they shall> *to* please, for every thing shall be <first> seen by you before finished. The <plates> *things* to be done are as in your last viz.

John Winde of Thornham a brass fillet .

2 the tomb at South Wotton <copper plate> on copper.

3 Tomb at Bergen ap Zoom <copper plate> on copper.

4 your mothers & Lady Howards <copper plate> on copper.

5 Lady Austen's hatchment at Bexley -- on copper.

6 your own arms & quarterings -- on copper.

7 the printed pedigree.⁵

I will do your quarterings last, so that you may settle it as you please.

<If you be so good as to pay Mr Trye the money / 24 guineas mentioned as soon as your conveniency serves after Midsummer, I should be obliged to you.> The brass <If you would be so good> fillet was five shillings and the whole sum 24 guineas, which if you please to pay as proposed in your last letter, *it* will be of great service <to me>. And if you think proper (and not otherwise) <I beleive> two notes of that value (to speak freely) would be of service.

I am now father of another little girl, which I have named Alice, & if I <could think / may hope to> *could* have the favour of your company *anytime* this summer, <would deferr her full baptism> *her reception into the church* 'till that time, in hopes you'd honour me so far as to be Godfather to it, assuring you I know not one <th> I should like so well, having found <you, both not only a professed but> *no such* real *& generous* friend <since> *from* our first acquaintance. I am with service in which my wife joins with me, your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁶

My little girl Bet is out.

1. Letter 228

2. At this point is the following deleted passage -

'With service, in which my wife joins me, I am your humble servant, Francis

Blomefield.'

3. Not preserved.
4. Engraving 7.
5. Of these only item 2 was eventually completed (Engraving 9).
6. No further correspondence.

230. Browne Willis to Francis Blomefield (f. 32)

Letter from Browne Willis Esquire.

Whaddon Hall near Fenny Stratford *Buckinghamshire*.

May 8. 1738.

Good Sir,

I received yours,¹ which I immediately answer, for I would not have the press stand still and so enclose to you my very copy of the members of 2 of your Norfolk boroughs² which you may transcribe & return again for I have several counties wrote fair in this manner, and it will otherwise break my transcript. Norfolk County, Norwich, Lyn and Yarmouth, you may have afterwards in circulation in this manner in franks & I enclose to you a traders half-penny &c.

I assure you I have greatly commended your most laborious performance, which I have heard objected to the length and several unnecessary things, but to this I answer, that your work is prodigious, and there are everything that can be picked up, which is of the utmost importance in antiquitys, for as much as any one may contract things to their own taste and method. Here was with me Mr Martin Folkes³ a great vertuoso last week, to whom I shewed some of your nos which I bought and he promised me at his coming to town he would immediately have them⁴ - he is a Norfolk gentleman of a very good estate there, and I wonder he never heard of your work.

But good sir, pray let me speak my fears & objections. As it comes out in this long slow manner several will have bought up what nos they please and leave off, and others will die before the work comes out and so there will be very few perfect copies. Pray what security have we against this? How can <the> *a* person get the whole work altogether at last - at Mr Trye's by Grey's In Gate?

I was in town a fortnight ago, and spoke of you work to several and just looked upon Thetford which is a prodigious performance, and the town on the Ford ought to do any thing you can ask as I hope some great men will, as I told Sir Andrew

Fountain they ought to reward you, if they had the least regard for Norfolk. Westminster &c Abingdon, Litchfield, St Albans got protections or indeed were never summoned as Thetford was not till after the Reformation to send to parliament, but this you will adapt to your purpose & pray keep what you have of

Thetford & return only Rising ad Castrum &c. From sir your most assured friend & servant to come,
Browne Willis.⁵

1. Not preserved.
2. These notes were published by Willis in his *Notitia Parliamentaria* (3 vols., London, 1716-50).
3. Martin Folkes (1690-1754), antiquary and then vice president of the Royal Society.
4. Folkes did not subsequently subscribe.
5. Reply Letter 231.

231. Francis Blomefield to Browne Willis (fols.32-4)

Fersfield May <14> *15* 1738.

To Browne Willis Esquire.

Sir,

I received you <kind> packet safe,¹ and can never be able to return *sufficient* thanks for your kindness, it came in time so that it was of double service. I have <here> inclosed Rising ad Castrum with thanks, the Hadleigh & Beccles peices in it,² & the rest shall be as desired referred for the next. You may depend upon what I happen of this way, having no manner of collections my self, tho' I always pick up for my friends all I <(can happen of> *see*. I never saw one of Sudbury or Thetford, but Mr Martin's, who I think has one of a Thetford trader. I would not include East Church it being a good weighty handsome peice, *it* shall be in your next.

I thank you much for your encouragement of my work, and hope you will remember it at agreeable oppertunities. I could much curtail it and indeed doubt I must omitt many things which I could like to insert by reason of that objection. I made my work as publick by advertisements as I could, in our Norwich papers, & in London for some months, that I really wonder Mr Folkes had not heard of it.

Your objections <sir>, are exceeding just, when I began I had a great number of subscribers, who notwithstanding they subscribed to take the whole, many <never> took <any> *none*, others <took> their own hundreds *only*, & great many <more> are dead, which obliged me to alter my method. *For* I <des> at first emploied booksellers in the county <who laid> *to lay* out the numbers, but found they used to lett them out to the reading & so

spoiled them before they were delivered to the subscribers. Upon which I was obliged to get a rider to lay them out at every man's own house in the county so which I still do at a great expence. <Indeed> at London Mr Trye hath <a certain number of> copys sent him, <who> *& so* will compleat any sets or <whole> deliver whole ones as called for.

I design 26 nos for a volume and imagine there will be 3 volumes <at least>, and indeed have hitherto kept all that have been printed, so that unless <my> *Mr* Trye, no one hath any whole setts but myself, <tho> *&* if any new subscribers *in the country* come in, I send them to them.

I don't know *but* at the end of this volume, but I may go <on> another way, viz. to deliver <certain the qua . . .> so many numbers together paying half down & the other half at the delivery & so <get> give receipts. <I undertake to be> I have been at a great expence in getting *both* printing <press> *& rolling presses* & proper material, fixed up in my house, & whither 'twill answer or no can't say. The encouragement I have met with is very inconsiderable setting aside Sir Andrew Fountain, *Mr Martin,* Mr Tanner, Dr Briggs & 5 or 6 more. I hope my Lord Lovell, who lately subscribed for 2 copies & who I am about waiting on, will do me some service & several other gentlemen whom I design waiting on next month seem to have an inclination that way.

I wish my fortunes were such, that I could afford <such a venture> *to run* the <has> hazard of doing the work with more expedition, but am so well contented in my station, that I am resolved not to run any hazard <that may be / may> *to* make me otherwise, & for that reason must be contented to do it as I can, tho' not as I would. However I am certain, by keeping <the whole> *all* copies in my own hands, that I shall have it in my power (if I live to finish it) to make the best of them.

As an instance <of> how antiquity is encouraged among us, my account of Thetford being drawn up, I <have> made what application I could to enable me to publish small draughts of the present ruins, the seals of all the religious houses, <all> which I have by me, a plan of the *present &* ancient town, of the money coined <here> & of the coins found here, but all to no <pure / purse / purse> purpose, not one would subscribe 2 pence. Nay <in that towne> the late mayor <indeed> *tho' he* was a subscriber, <but never> took <any> *none*, & the present is no subscriber at all, the whole town affording me not above <7 or 6>.³

My friends advised me to print <all> the histories of the

corporations by themselves, and accordingly I have printed 50 copies & not one more in quarto on a fine paper,⁴ and design <to try if I can't get subscriptions for> *to insert* the plates <to insert> there, and to add the original charters, deeds &c by way of appendix at the end. I <design> *do it* to try this Burgh, & if I find I can be able to make it answer <me,> will do the rest, otherwise <will> not.

Many gentlemen would <willingly> they tell me, give me plates, if I would do them at just their own price, <that is plainly> and return them the plate. That is *(upon trial)* if I would do that for 2 or 3 guineas, which would cost me in expences of going & <drawing or> getting draughts <as> a great deal more & then expect for that money to have them done very well. A certain gentleman sometime since ordered me to get his arms done *in the larger size* in wood only, which I was to have <but / only> 5s for, & when he saw it tho' he owned it was right, <wood turned into my hands[?]> would not pay me because it did not look as well as a copper one <which came to> *of* a guinea. This is what people in the country & in a common state of life labour under, which discourages <receipts / make an> *many* undertakings that would be agreeable to some, and which (if they knew it) <there> would <be even> *have* a sufficient number to encourage <it> *them*.

However I am determined (having seen the greatest part of the expence) to go on, tho' I don't see the whole of my own again. And if I can but <meet / keep / get> *have* with <encouragement enough / success> *such a number of subscribers as will* <get to> keep things going, will perfect the work as well as my abilities *& collections* will enable me, and hope that as I have gone thus far, I shall meet with such future success as a may <enable> *impower* me to do it faster than hitherto I have done. I am &c.,⁵
[Francis Blomefield]

I shall be exceeding glad as your opportunity serves for the county & other burghs, and if I can be of any service in our way shall be proud to do it.

1. This packet contained Letter 230.
2. I.e. the tokens referred to in Letter 230.
3. A number of these were eventually included as woodcut illustrations financed by Blomefield and by Robert Martin (e.g. Woodcuts 13, 19, and 20).
4. Francis Blomefield, *The History of the Ancient City and Burgh of Thetford* (Fersfield, 1739).

5. No further correspondence.

232. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Trye (f. 35)

To Mr Trye.

May 26. 1738.

Sent no.16, desire him to deliver a set to William Winde Esquire when called for, have had a letter he will either call on him, and give 2 notes to my use of 12 guineas each, the first 12 payable 10 days after Midsummer at longest, the other before Michaelmas, or if he should send them to me I must send them him &c.,¹

[Francis Blomefield]

1. No reply preserved, but see Letter 233.

233. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Trye (f. 36)

To Mr Trye.

June 14. 1738. Fersfield.

Sir,

(I orderd the medals, paper (1738) the Landlords Act to be sent in a parcel by the Carrier. I ordered him to go for the 2 12 guinea notes to Mr Winde, & carry a whole set of nos.)¹

There is a difference subsisting between my printer & his wife, which makes me something imagine he may leave me, being to go (as he tells me) for London next week. If it should be so, that he should call on you, and request any thing on my account, tell him you have no orders from me, *and* that you can do no thing without it. Whither he intends to return or no I can't tell yet, but thought it proper to give you a caution, tho' I desire you would not let him know it, if it should be so, because that may be a means to hinder his return.

If it should happen that he does not come back, I take it for granted I can have men enow for my money considering I have constant work. I am &c.,

Francis Blomefield.²

Mr Winde's direction sent him.

1. See Letter 232.
2. No reply received, see Letter 236.

234. Francis Blomefield to William Winde (f. 36)

To Mr Winde
June 15. 1738.

Sent word I orderd Mr Trye to call about the notes & carry a compleat set,¹ that I am glad the Heralds approve of both the genealogy & genealogical history that I had sent him, that I would add any thing as he orderd, & leave the quarterings for the last, that my wive's arms are impaled with my own in my pedigree, & whither 'twould be right to impale a deceased wive's coat, where there is no issue. The plate² shall be done exact as sent from the Heralds. Haven't gone thro' all the originals yet, but as far as I have compared they answer exactly, have perused the old deeds, would know why I should peruse them in particular according to the last letter.³ Will do Wotton tomb 1st.⁴ I am &c.,
Francis Blomefield.⁵

1. See Letter 233.
2. This plate was apparently never completed.
3. Not preserved.
4. Engraving 9.
5. No further correspondence.

235. Francis Blomefield to Francis Peck (f. 37)

To the Reverend Mr Francis Peck Rector of Godeby in Leicestershire.
June 13. 1738 Fersfield.
Sir,

Yours of the 16th of the last <instant> I received¹ and congratulate you on your sons admission,² to whom I have sent the 16 nos already published and don't doubt but you will receive them safe. I have <already> received <your book of my friend Mr Martin of Palgrave> your 1st vol of desiderata &c³ of Mr Martin and shall be glad to receive the next, which I find is published & whatever you publish, will gladly exchange.

My work is pretty well settled now, I design 3 volumes, 26 numbers in each volume, which I will send to your son <as> when 4 or 5 are out. I am glad to hear Mr Baker & Dr Warren, who is one of my subscribers, are well, & that your son hath so worthy a patron as Mr Baker. I should be glad you would inform *me* 3

weeks or a month beforehand whenever you go to Cambridge, & will meet you if possible. Please to let your book be left with <Dr W> Mr Thurlbourn who is my bookseller in Cambridge directed for me. If opportunity permitts will endeavour to get you an urn.

If I can be any way servicable you may be sure I will not forget it. I have now perfected a collection I have been <many> *doing several* years <after>, and got all the originals, viz, above a hundred letters of Sir John Fastolfs own hand, an account of the sumptuous palace or castle that he built at Castor by Yarmouth, the exact furniture of every room, the expences of building, the seige of it after his death, it's demolition, the originals of all his noble preferments in France, his last will, the account of the money plate &c left at his death, which <was> *is* almost incredible, his revenues, donations, and whatever was curious during his whole life, by which it appears he was the greatest man of that age & greater than any since.⁴

I have no memorials neither do I know of any relating to Bishop Williams. I have the other day happened on an antique cargo that hath much augmented & perfected my former collections. I am your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁵

<I send the nos to Cambridge next week.>

1. Not preserved.
2. Francis Peck, Rector of Gunby, Lincolnshire.
3. Francis Peck, *Desiderata curiosa* (2 vols, London, 1732-5).
4. These manuscripts are now B.L., Addl. MS. 39848.
5. No reply preserved.

236. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Havers (f. 38)

To Thomas Havers Esquire at Thelton Norfolk.

January 1. 1738[/9] Fersfield.

Good Sir,

I received your kind message,¹ and designed waiting on you my self as yesterday but was unluckily hinderd by my printers running off now he hath sufficiently got into my debt, so that I am forced to stick close to the press in order to publish number 20, on Thursday next.

If you would be so good as to give me a line by the bearer,

whenever you have the opportunity to introduce me to his Grace, I shall take it as an addition to the many favours already conferred upon me, designing to request the favour that I may dedicate this volume (which I hope in half a year <tim]> to finish) to his Grace,² who is certainly the most proper person, as superior of the county, & not only so, but of a family, that for family sake, I should of all things like.

I design also to show him some progress I have made in the pedigree & historical account of his forefathers, and as I find (since I have been up) he is a man most remarkable for learning and reading (ornaments nowadays seldom attending the great). I don't fear but <must> to meet with some incouragement of copper plates, either of the monuments of his ancestors or of his genealogy, either of which would be of service as well as universal credit & honour to my undertaking. I hope this may be between our selves, with the wishes of the season to your self and good family, I am sir your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.³

As soon as ever I can get out design waiting on you.

1. Not preserved.
2. Edward Howard, ninth Duke of Norfolk.
3. No further correspondence preserved

Miscellaneous Letters (in chronological order)

237. Thomas Law to Francis Blomefield

(Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Cambridge 3 f. 422.)

Reepham June 10th 1728.

Reverend Sir,

I was last week in Cambridgeshire, and according to your desire inquired what time Mr Rutherforth of Papworth¹ designed to publish his Antiquitys of Cambridgeshire. I am credibly informed that they are not yet in the press, and have some reasons to imagine that the publication of them will not be in a short time. I heartily wish you good success in your undertaking, and don't in the least question but that it will be beneficial and agreeable to the world, and in particular to, Reverend Sir, your most obedient humble servant,
Thomas Lawes.²

1. Thomas Rutherforth of Papworth collected extensive materials relating to the history of Cambridgeshire (see *D.N.B.* under Thomas Rutherforth junior).
2. Probably the same man as the Thomas Law mentioned in Letter 186 note 2. No further correspondence.

238. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Martin

(Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum Perceval Packet A.)

To Mr Thomas Martin, Attorney-at-Law, at Segoe's Coffee House, Holbourn.

Fersfield February 16. 1729[/30].

Good Sir,

I am desired by our friend Mr Baldwin,¹ to begg the favour of you to save him an odd volume of the Quod libets of Duns Scotus,² which is among Mr Le Neve's Books. Mr Baldwin hath the other three which he had out of Mr Cressner's study,³ where Mr Neve had his, the odd one, being the same as to binding &c. with Mr Baldwin's, "Impress. Venetijs, ad expensas et mandatum Johanni de Colonia, &c. anno 1477 (or) 1478." 'Tis the 4th vol. bound in board & coverd over with white leather & printed in double columns, he thinks it is of no great use single & hearing you were about to dispose of the books late Mr Neves⁴ hope you will save it for him, he being willing to allow what you think reasonable. The Quiddenham Library⁵ is sold to Mr Thurlbourn of Cambridge.

I shall be glad to hear of your coming down, intending to wait on you & return these things I have of yours by me. I hope you will help me to a sight of Mr Le Neve's collections for Diss Hundred and Cambridgeshire. I have an old note by me, which informs me that there is a pedigree on record in the Heralds Office, in which there is much concerning the 2 old monuments in our church at Fersfield, they being put in there as belonging to the Howards or some family's that they matched with. If opportunity & leizure should offer, should be exceeding glad to hear something of it. I am good sir yours to command,
Francis Blomefield.⁶

1. James Baldwin, rector of Carleton and Bunwell.
2. Duns Scotus, *Quod libetas* (Venice, 1477).
3. Presumably from the library of Drue Cressener (d.1718), Prebendary of Ely.

4. Le Neve's books were sold at the Bedford Coffee House, February-March 1730/1.
5. The library of Sir John Holland at Quidenham. See *Bibliotheca Hollandia, sive catalogus librorum in quavis facultate insignium a. . . . J. Holland Baronetto, de Quidenham* (London, 1729) .
6. No further correspondence surviving.

239. Beaupre Bell to Francis Blomefield

(Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Cambridge 3 f. 213.)

October 3, 1730.

Dear Sir,

With my thanks for the pleasure of yours,¹ I send you a farrago of hints, which may possibly be of some use in your present design. I wish I could have added any thing relating to Cottenham, but what few papers I have relate only to the draining their fens, which does not I think come within your scheme. What monumental inscriptions I have are from Land-beach, Milton, Qui, Bottesham, Haddenham, Wilberham, Chesterton, Cherry Hinton, the 2 Soffhams, Upwell, & Outwell, any of which you may command. There were about a dozen in Girton church before the Reformation, but I have lost or mislaid the transcript. When I meet with any thing that I think will be of the least service, it shall be communicated with the greatest pleasure, by your obliged humble servant,

Beaupre Bell.²

I had almost forget to tell you that Mr Parkins, rector of Oxburgh, Com[itatus] Norfolk, formerly of Caius College,³ is preparing an history of the Deanary of Fincham.

1. Not preserved.
2. No reply preserved, see Letter 242.
3. Parkin was from Pembroke College.

240. John Dawney to Francis Blomefield

(Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Cambridge 2 f. 300.)

For the Reverend Mr Blomfield Rector of Fersfield to be left at Mr Darby's in Diss Norfolk.

Cambridge, March 13. 1730[/1].

Dear Frank,

I don't doubt but you have long thought me negligent in not answering your's,¹ but I hope I shall be able to give you a satisfactory account of my silence. You desired me to send you Archbishop Sancrofts bust and inscription out of Emmanuel Library, I could not get it till very lately, my friend Littell,² now *Fellow*, having been out of college so much by way of excuse.

Your kind concern <to hear of> **for** my success bespeaks the friend, I can yet give you no account of it, when there is another vacancy I shall know more of the matter. *You rectors are happy men*, Goodall was chose **Fellow** on Shrove Tuesday and Mr Lubbock was on the same day admitted into Greenaway's Fellowship, to which he had been some time praelected, Dr Mott and Mr Hedman were at the same time chose to succeed Dr Husbands and Mr Wright.³ People begin to talk very confidently of a Publick Commencement <will> which I hope will bring you to Cambridge.

Captain Canham is in town, with (as I hear) a view of being made Fellow of Peterhouse. You <thou> talk of changing your condition, if you do I wish you success, you are a happy man that have it [in] your power to do as you like. Pray my service to Mr Loyd⁴ when you go next to Thrandeston. I have sent you what inscriptions you wrote for, I'm but dull at this business, and as you'll find don't talk like an antiquary but you must excuse it. Pray in your next, send me an account of a monument over a baronet in this country, his own devising, four lines his own composing, what was his name, where did he live?⁵

[There follows a series of transcripts of monuments in Cambridge University].

I expect a long letter all the news in the country. I cant tell when I shall **see** Norfolk but I believe not till summer is

pretty for spent. My service to all friends in your corner. I am sir
your friend and humble servant,
John Dawney.⁶

P.S. Lemin's⁷ Brother has got the small pox and is out of
danger.

1. Not preserved.
2. Thomas Littel, Fellow of Emanuel College.
3. Henry Goodall, William Lubbock, Daniel Greenaway, John Mott, James Husband, and Robert Wright, all Fellows of Caius College.
4. William Lloyd, Rector of Thrandeston.
5. The last line of this page has been trimmed at this point.
6. No reply preserved.
7. Presumably one of the brothers John or William Leman, see Letter 19 note 8.

241. Thomas Hull to Francis Blomefield

(Bodl. Libr., MS Gough Cambridge 2 f. 584)

To the Reverend Mr Blomefield, Rector of Fersfield near Diss.

Christ College Cambridge June 1. 1731.

Dear Sir,

You cannot give me a stronger instance of your friendship
than by requiring any service from me. I have enquired after the
particulars you mention, & send you this account of them.

[There follows a written account of a conduit and of the
monuments in Queens' College.]

I went from thence to Peter's House but to my great
surprise could not find a person who could find the ms. It seems,
some time since, they were placed in a different manner from the
catalogue & have lain quiet & undisturbed. I left a note with my
acquaintance to hand about among the rest of the fellows, that if
possible, we may draw it from obscurity. In the catalogue it is
called *Chronicon Angliae a Bruto ad 14 Edvardi* 4.

I have some things relating to our college which I intend to
send you. Mr Bell has told me the design you are upon, I leave it to
you to judge, whether a brief mention of some occurrences in
history which respect this county would not be entertaining. The
subject is dull, & wants to be enlivened by such digressions. If you

agree to it, I believe I can point out several things, which you will approve of.

Have you got the names of the incumbents of Caldecot? I can send them taken from an old register there.

My very humble service to Mr Martin. I hope you found Mr Bell in good health. I expected to have heard from him this week, if your company robbed *me* of that pleasure, I hope you will make me amends by a letter from your self shortly. Dear sir, your humble servant,

Thomas Hull.¹

I shall be glad to know whether you take in the University, I have a pretty large collection relating to it.

1. No further correspondence.

242. Beaupre Bell to Francis Blomefield

(Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Cambridge 3 f. 214.)

Beaupre Hall, December 27, 1731.

Dear Sir,

I send you a description of such coins in my collection as were found in the parish of Elme (Insul. Eliens.), I cannot exactly recollect the year, nor is it very material. I have now before me about thirty of the Denarii found the last year near March, an account of which (if it will be of any service) you may command from your affectionate humble servant,

Beaupre Bell.¹

1. There follows a list of Roman coins entitled 'Imp. Rom. Numismata prope Elme infra Insul. Eliens. eruta circa annum 1730, hodie penes B.B.' No reply preserved, but see Letter 249.

243. Gilbert Burroughs to Francis Blomefield

(N.R.O., Duleep Singh Deposit DS603.)

To the Reverend Mr Blomefield at Mrs Womock's at Buxton there.

July 22. 1732.

Sir,

I have transcribed this¹ out of Mr Henry Smith's

manuscript as near the character as I could, which may make it obscure to you in some places. I can not pretend to transcribe the Thetford manuscript, but if you call tomorrow I

will endeavour to procure it for you. In the mean time am your
faithfull servant,
Gilbert Burroughs 2

1. The letter is attached to the transcript
2. No further correspondence.

244. James Baldwin to Francis Blomefield
(N.R.O., MC1/1 Le Neve correspondence.)

Bunwell, December 28. 1732.
To the Reverend Mr Blomefield of Fersfield.
Sir,

I lay at Eccles the night you saw me last, had some conversation upon the affair,¹ wherein I furthered your interest as farr as decently I could; and notwithstanding I received no direct answer yet have I reason to think it may do (at least as to the Sequestration). I am of opinion that you need not press further, nor would it be adviseable 'till Mr Gr.² has been with you; probably we shall fix a time on Sunday; if not I will see you if I can in the next week, at least you shall hear of me.

Out of Doomesday I am most fond of Yarmouth, Elmham & Norwich, if I could have the whole account of each verbatim as it lies.³ Carleton-Rode I take to be named from some Cross standing in Rode-Lane, where lay the great road from Wyndham to Diss, Bunwell, alias Burwell, alias Burnwell, i.e. fons rivuli. Seek for Haddeston in Doomesday. Keep Doomesday till next week.

I am roused out of bed (to which I did not go till five this morning) to go two miles through the dirt to a dying woman, who has a mind to see me now, tho' in time of health she cared *not* for me nor anything else; thence I am staid for a mile another way by our townsmen and their bell founder, so must conclude without other method than general service from all to all. Your affectionate brother & humble servant,
James Baldwin.⁴

1. The Presentation of the Rectory of Eccles.
2. William Green Lord of the Manor of Eccles.
3. Letter endorsed by Blomefield - 'Lent Mr Baldwin all the papers, call for them'.
4. No further correspondence surviving.

245. Beaupre Bell to Francis Blomefield

(Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Cambridge 3 f. 269)

December 23, 1733.

Dear Sir,

I lately sent you some account of Elme church,¹ and as soon as I hear that it is come to hand, will transmit what I know of Outwell.

I shall use my utmost diligence with regard to your proposals, & have added one more to the list of your subscribers; but, what is much more material, have now before me an abridgement of all of the Bishop of Ely's registers, both at Ely, Elyhouse London, & in the registry at Cambridge: a most laborious curious work, & which I can procure you the intire use of. I shall immediately expect your commands, & am, dear sir, your very affectionate & obliged,
Beaupre Bell junior.²

Beaupre Hall, Norfolk,

I shall send you in a few days a new specimen of the work I have undertaken.

1. Not preserved.

2. No reply preserved, see Letter 246.

246. Beaupre Bell to Francis Blomefield

(Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Cambridge 3 f. 256.)

March 27. [1734].

Dear Sir,

I hoped the pleasure of hearing from you before this time, but imagine you are taken up with searches for your history. I have since my last¹ spent some time in examining Outwell church, and if you please to send me that letter in which I gave you a description of it,¹ I promise to return it much improved. You may easily send it by the Yarmouth Carrier, directed <to> for me, to be left with the Reverend Mr Hull of Christ's College;² and as he constantly writes to me once a week, it will come soon to my hands. I forgot in my last to return you thanks for the coins you are so kind to promise me; they will be very acceptable, & may come safe along with the letter I mentioned to Mr Hull. I am at

present engaged in a chronological series of emperors, for the use of collectors of coins; 'twill take a good deal of time, but as I am going thro' the Roman History, the extraordinary trouble will not be great. When it is finished, if you think it worth transcribing, it shall be at your service.

I have nothing at present worth your notice, unless the following note be of some little use, 'tis from a ms account of mannors, &c. late parcel of the possessions of Prince Henry, sold in fee-simple and fee-farme: "*Claus vocat. Highelman et al: parcell: maner: de Waterbech & Denny per An. --- ixl. Situs & capit: mess: maner de Waterbech & Denny per An. --- xiiil.*"

When any thing occurs to the purpose, you may depend upon it from your affectionate humble servant,
Beaupre Bell.³

1. Not preserved.
2. Thomas Hull, Fellow of Christ's College.
3. No reply preserved.

247. Henry Briggs to Francis Blomefield

N.R.O., Frere MS. Holt/Holt.

Norwich April 16 1733[4]¹

Reverend Sir,

I received yours in due course,² and would have sent you an answer at the time you desired, had I not been prevented by illness. I showd yours proposals to several persons, and found them unwilling to subscribe till they had seen a specimen of the work. I was last week at Mr Carlos's and entered myself a subscriber, and shall be ready to send you such information about Holt as you shall desire.

I am informd you have Mr Neeves papers, who, I am told, was at Holt, and I presume wrote down what he thought remarkable there. The Lords of the Manor I presume he could not be well informd of, I therefore send you the following account. In the reign of K. James the 1st, James Hobart Esquire (son of the Lord Cheif Justice Hobart of Blicklin) was Lord of the Manor. He was succeeded by his son Edmond; after him his daughter Hannah, married to William Briggs M.D. Physician in Ordinary to K. William the III. He was my father, and I succeed him in the manor. I should likewise inform you that the patronage of the living

is appendant to the manor. I find by an old charter, that in the reign of Edward the 2nd Petronelle de Nerford was Lord of the Manor, and in Q. Elizabeth's Sir Christopher Heydon.

There is a monument of my grandfather Edmond Hobart in our church, the inscription of which I design shall be inserted in your history, together with the form of <the> the monument.³ If you will let me know when you shall want them, I will send you the same, and will pay you for the plate. I am sir your most obedient servant,
Henry Briggs.⁴

1. The date is clearly incorrect.
2. Possibly Letter 19.
3. Engraving 3.
4. Endorsed by Blomefield 'answered', but no reply preserved, see Letter 33.

248. Francis Peck to Francis Blomefield

J. Nichols, *Illustrations of the Literary History of the Eighteenth Century* (8 vols., London, 1812-5), p.354.

Godeby, June 27, 1734.

Sir,

I received yours by Mr Kilby;¹ the arms of the persons knighted by King Edward I. I send herewith from Mr Burton's ms; as also the same from Mr Joseph Holland's book, a ms. which I had not seen when I formerly sent you the names of those Knights from Burton.² I have now most carefully compared both copies and noted the differences. I would wish you to print both copies (first Burton's and then Holland's) exactly as I have given them. For, if you attempt to alter or throw them into any other method, I fear it will lead you into mistakes.

I desire to be one of your subscribers, conditionally that you take one of my Antiquities of Stanford³ in lieu of one of yours. If your book comes to more money, I will pay the difference; and, if I can get you any subscribers, you may be assured I will. If you will send me your first volume when finished, to Dr Warren, or Mr Burroughs, at Cambridge, I will send one of my books to the same person for you.

I was lately at Cambridge, and copied with my own hand all that ms relating to the Gild at Stanford, in Caius Library, which you first sent me an account of. As for your last two letters⁴ I know

nothing of them. But none of my other correspondents complain of their letters miscarrying on their way hither.

When you see Mr Martin, I pray you tell him that I love him, and hope to meet him in London, and to enjoy his good company, this winter, with our antiquarian friends at the Mitre.

I wish you your health, and that you would write oftener to, sir, your most obedient humble servant,
Francis Peck.⁵

When you go upon Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, you may have the Knights of those counties from both the same mss.

1. Not preserved, Joseph Kilby was Vicar of Evington, Leicestershire.
2. Peck was collecting materials for a life of William Burton (see *D.N.B.* entry for Burton).
3. F. Peck, *Academia tertia Anglicana; or the Antiquarian Annals of Stanford* (London, 1727).
4. Not preserved.
5. No reply preserved.

249. Nathaniel Shorting to Henry Briggs (on behalf of Francis Blomefield)

(N.R.O., Frere MS. Holt/Thornage.)

[1735]

Reverend Sir,

I have returned Mr Blomefield's Queries, & am sorry I can do him but little service in his undertaking. The following particulars may perhaps serve as hints for farther inquiries, & as such if you please, may be communicated to him. I suppose he will find it necessary to come in person, to every parish, in which case he may be assured of the best assistances we can give him. I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant,
Nathaniel Shorting.¹

1. Attached to the letter was one page of text relating to the manor of Thornage. No further correspondence.

250. Francis Blomefield to John Holmes

(B.L., Additional MS. 6209 f. 135.)

Fersfield April 10. 1735.

To Mr Holmes Schoolmaster at Holt Norfolk.

Sir,

I have been so ill that I could not possibly give you an

answer before,¹ and am now forced to give you one more imperfect than I could wish, not having opportunity at present to be so full as I could otherwise be, but if you want any further account, if you trouble yourself to advertise me of it by a letter I will answer it with all my heart.

[There follows an account of Gresham's College]

I shall be very glad if this be of any service. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

P.S. I <will> have <will> inclosed a subscription paper, if you be so<o> good as to send it up to the Company,³ perhaps I may gett a subscriber or two. Please to gett it returnd to you again in 2 or 3 months time.

1. Letter not preserved.
2. Reply Letter 251.
3. This has been endorsed with a further letter of 22 April 1735, from Holmes to Matthias Tanner (Clerk of the Fishmongers' Company) containing additional information, which was sent together with Blomefield's subscription paper. A scholarship at Gresham's College was sponsored by the Fishmongers' Company of London.

251. John Holmes to Francis Blomefield
(N.R.O., Frere MS. Holt/Saxlingham).

Holt April 29th 1735
Reverend Sir,

I received your's,¹ & return you thanks for the account you have given me of the Gresham Family, which I have sent to London, with your subscription paper. If you should meet with the Inquisition you mention at Sir John's death, or should any thing further occur by accident in turning over your papers, I shall be much obliged to you for an account of it.

But in the mean time what shall I do to deserve this favour? Why, sir, if you think proper to employ me, I shall be very ready to lend you all the assistance I'm able in that most useful work which you are now about; I mean, I shall be willing on any holiday (you know my confinement) to ride 8 or 10 miles any way, to take down

monuments, inscriptions, arms &c. Dr Newdigate (who has got you several subscribers) will do the same, & has already begun.²

We have both been at Saxthorp & Saxlingham. I have been at Baconsthorp & Iteringham. I went likewise to Melton, where I found my friend Mr Horsley³ taking down the monuments, who has likewise got you 7 subscriptions, & is as willing to serve you. We all three intend to wait on you at Aylsham with our tackle, if you'll let us know when you come there. In the interim be pleased to accept of the following inscriptions.

[There follows an account of the monuments in the churches of Saxthorp, Iteringham, Baconsthorp, & Saxlingham]

I am, sir, your most humble servant,
John Holmes.⁴

1. Letter 250.
2. See Letter 54 from Dr Newdigate.
3. Samuel Horsley, Rector of Melton 1734-54.
4. No further correspondence.

252. William Wilton to Henry Briggs (on behalf of Francis Blomefield)

(N.R.O., Frere MS. Holt/Morston).

To the Reverend Dr Briggs Rector of Holt Market in Norfolk.
Stiffkey June 22^o 1735.
Reverend Dr,

I am sorry I could not sooner comply with your request of an answer to the favour of yours,¹ for which indispositions & other hindrances have afforded too real an excuse. I have not indeed had the opportunity of informing my self of remarkable things in the small village of Morston fit to furnish matter for the historical account now preparing by the Reverend Mr Blomfield; but for what has as yet occurrd, in answer to any of the queries proposd, I desire him to accept the adjoining account from Mr Blomfield's & your humble servant,
William Wilton.²

1. Not preserved, presumably sent together with Blomefield's questionnaire (Letter 294).

2. An account of Morston was attached. No further correspondence.

253. Fairfax Stillingfleet to Francis Blomefield

(N.R.O., Frere MS. Earsham/Starston.)

To the Reverend Mr Blomefield rector of Fersfield to be left with Mr Carlos bookseller in Norwich.

August 25. 1735 Starston.

Sir,

I received the favour of a letter from you with some queries relating to Aldeburgh (or, as its more commonly writ, Alburgh) & Starston.¹ I return you the following answers to as many of them as I am able. I heartily wish you good success in your undertaking, and am sir, your very humble servant,
Fairfax Stillingfleet.²

[There follow parallel answers to the questionnaire for Alburgh and Starston.]

P.S. Since I wrote the foregoing account, I am told there is in the hands of Mr Jay at Wortwell a will made by one Wright *of Alburgh* before the Reformation, in which he desired to be buried under the image of St Catherine. No memory of it is now remaining. Quere, whether from this incident it may not be conjectured that she was the tutelar saint of Aldeburgh-church.

I remember Mr Fuller in his *English Worthies*³ concluding every county with proverbs peculiar to it. Here is a proverb in which Alburgh (commonly called Arborough) is included, that I beg leave to send you. You are the best judge, whether it will be proper to insert it. Denton in the Dale, Yarborough in the Dirt; & if you go to Homersfield (a little neighbouring village where there are a great many ale houses) your purse will ge[t] the squ--t.

1. Not preserved.

2. No further correspondence.

3. Thomas Fuller, *The History of the Worthies of England* (London, 1662).

254. Joseph Lane to Henry Briggs (on behalf of Francis Blomefield)

(N.R.O., Frere MS. Holt/Saxlingham.)

To the Reverend Dr Briggs, Holt.

Saxlingham August 30 1735.

Reverend Sir,

I have according to your request returned the queries but without such an answer as you I presume might expect from me; my reasons for which are these. First of all, that I find nothing in either of my parishes (the monument excepted) worthy to be communicated to the publick. Secondly that should there be any thing relating to the manors or customs thereof, worthy to be taken notice of, I should by no means presume to do it; not thinking it either civil or gratefull, to expose the private properties of a friend, & a gentleman, without his leave, to the publick observation of mankind. Thirdly that so particular & exact an account of every minute circumstance, mentioned in the queries, would (in my opinion) render the work too voluminous, & by no means please such of the curious readers, as would willingly be acquainted with every valuable piece of antiquity, without so great a mixture of such as is not so.

I don't mention this with a design of detracting any thing from the gentleman's performance, nor do I by any means suspect his abilities not equal to his undertaking. All that I would observe is only this, that his readers will not only pardon but be very much obliged to him if he be not so particular & circumstantial as he designs to be. I beg pardon for giving so much trouble about this affair, & am sir, your most obedient humble servant,
Joseph Lane.¹

1. No further correspondence.

255. John Russell to Francis Blomefield

(N.R.O., Frere MS. Blofield/Brundal.)

To the Reverend Mr Blomefield Rector of Fersfield.

Postwick, 8 December 1735

Reverend Sir,

You have undertaken an elaborate work which needs not

only great application but also good correspondence of such as can and will lend their assistance in answering with due observations the queries you propose in your printed letter. I heartily wish you health and years to compleat what I have heard you have already for some considerable time applied your self to. I doubt not your having perused essays of the same nature with yours, to which the usefulness & entertainment of it, can't but give the desired success & kind acceptance. Herewith you have the most material information within my cognizance relating to the respective parishes I am concerned with, the truth whereof I think I may averr, mostly upon personal knowledge, and I hope will be as kindly received & tendered by, worthy sir, your most respectful brother, & very humble servant,
John Russell Cl[ericus].¹

1. Sent with Letter 256 below.

256. John Russell to Francis Blomefield

(N.R.O., Frere MS. Blofield/Brundal.)

To the Reverend Mr Francis Blomefield Rector of Fersfield.
Postwick December 8th 1735.

Worthy Sir,

Herewith I send you what relates to Great Plumstead and Brundal, in Blofield Hundred, in my cognizance, agreeable to your queries, in relation to your undertaking. You will take or leave as you please, but what you take keep to it, as right upon my word. If what I have done answers, you may (if God permit, and I know you <must> *desire*) expect an account of Postwick in the same Deanary, as will give a competent knowledge of it, and its appurtenances, where I have been incumbent near upon 40 years, not to expectation of a purchaser, who bought the next turn about 20 years ago, at a great price, counting my then great sickness would be my last. The weakness of my hand and eyes at 83, oblige me to dictate to an amanuensis who writes this, and without one I can't transact any thing in legible writing, but remain in the cleric fraternity, sir your most respectful brother,
John Russel.¹

1. Apparently sent together with Letter 255, and pinned to an account of Great Plumstead. No reply preserved, but see Letter 257.

257. John Russell to Francis Blomefield

(N.R.O., Duleep Singh Collection DS 599)

To Mr Francis Blomefield with a roll of papers¹ directed also to him. To be left at James Carlos's Bookseller in Norwich.

Postwick February 4 1735/6.

Worthy Sir,

You have herewith as desired by your acceptable letter of December 24th² such account as I can furnish of Postwick to which some relatives, modern & ancient *with some digressions* are added. If any thing therein seems wrong, too trivial, superfluous or otherway disagreeable, your better judgment will forbear blemishing your history therewith. When your work is carried on so far, that you can send me to the Kings Arms in Norwich only a copy or two of this, it will be an acceptable gratuity.

I am shortly to die, and so not agreeable to be a subscriber, which yet I would, if any of my relations (I hope will survive me) had a right taste of such matters. However I <reman> remain under the cogency of kindest wishes; and remain sir, your very respectful friend & brother,

John Russell Clericus.³

1. Sent together with a manuscript entitled 'An account of Postwick and its Relatives in the County of Norfolk with some excursions from thence. 1735/6'. This manuscript was subsequently published under the same title in 1858 and erroneously ascribed to the authorship of Thomas Harrison (Parish Clerk at Postwick).

2. Not preserved, but see Letters 255-6.

3. Endorsed as follows - 'Good Sir Be pleased to correct or pardon the errors of the Amanuensis. Your humble servant, Richard Burrows'. No further correspondence.

258. Richard Rawlinson to Francis Blomefield

(N.R.O., NNAS c3/2/8.)

To the Reverend Mr Bromfeild at Fersfield near Diss Norfolk. / Single Sheet.

London House Aldersgate Strete, 5 January 1736-7.

Reverend Sir,

I sent more than one letter,¹ which I sent never came to your hand, or some business of more importance hinders an

answer. If the enclosed be of any use from the probate dated 31. May 1472 in my possession, I shall be well pleased.

[There follows an account of the will of John Berney of Reedham endorsed vera copia R.R. 5 January 1737/8.]²

And am wishing you many happy new years. Reverend Sir
yours ever to command,
Richard Rawlinson³

1. Not preserved.
2. This date appears to be incorrect, the date given at the end is more likely.
3. No reply preserved.

259. Francis Blomefield to John Holmes (on behalf of John Ward)

(B.L., Addl. MS 6209 fols. 115 and 117.)

For Mr Holmes Schoolmaster in Holt Norfolk.¹
Norwich January 7. 1736[/7].³
Sir,

I have answered the quae[rie]s as soon as it pleased God to give me the use of my right hand; for a long time I have been so swelled with the rheumatism I have had no use of either hands or feet, but am now recovered all but my left hand. I hope the answers are full and satisfactory and that Mr Ward will be so good as to promote the interest of my book with the society² as much as he can. I am your humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.

1. The envelope in which this letter was sent has been reversed and re-used by Holmes on January 13 1736 to transmit the reply to John Ward.
2. Ward was Professor of Rhetoric at Gresham College.
3. There follow various transcripts relating to Cressingham. No further correspondence.

260. Beaupre Bell to Francis Blomefield

(Bodl. Libr., MS Gough Cambridge 3. f. 106.)

To the Reverend Mr Blomefield Rector of Fersfield near Diss in

Norfolk. By Caxton & Cambridge.

January 26, [1736].¹

Dear Sir,

I waited on Mr Rand since my last,² and though he is <perfectly> *intirely* free to give you the use of the ms he has taken so much pains to collect, is by no means willing to part with it so far from his own study; but if you ever think it worth your while to make a tour this way, it shall be perfectly at your service. I ashure you I think it well worth it, & as 'twill be some time before you enter upon Cambridgeshire, may have both <[illegible]> *leasure* & inclination to visit this corner. I must add, that it will take near a month to go thro' the whole, though he has himself digested several parishes, & posted them. I have sent you one letter concerning Outwell,³ & will soon give you the remainder, but desire you not to take any notice from whom you receive so small an assistance, tho' I will some time give you a better reason.

I have been told your neighbour Mr Martyn has a good collection of Roman Coins; if he has, pray examine if the reverse of any of them have not yet been publishd, particularly whether he has any of Carausius with uncommon types, or indeed of any other tyrant whose history is little known. I have lately engraved two very singular coins from Mr Gale's cabinet.⁴ I have several letters to write to-night therefore desire you to excuse the abruptness of, dear sir, your most affectionate friend & servant, Beaupre Bell.⁵

1. Transcribed in John Nichols, *Bibliotheca topographica Britannica* (10 vols., London, 1780-1800) iii. 471-2, with the incorrect date of 1746 (Bell died in 1741).

2. Brock Rand (d.1753) Rector of Shelton and antiquary.

3. See Letter 245.

4. The antiquary Roger Gale (1672-1744) had a large coin collection which he subsequently left to Cambridge University.

5. No further correspondence.

261. Francis Blomefield to Moses Leake

(N.R.O., Frere MS. Shropham/Bridgham.)

To the Reverend Mr Leake rector of Bridgham.¹

July 29. 1737

Reverend Sir,

Being very near your town of Bridgham begg the

favour of an answer to these quaeries by the bearer.

Is there a Rectory House? [is]

What numbers of acres of the Glebe? [39A 1/2]

What are the yearly Sinodals? [one shilling]

What the yearly procurations? [seven & seven pence 1/2]

Is there a Rectory Manor? [no]

Does the copy hold descend to the eldest or youngest? [eldest]

Is there *[be]* more manors than one? [2]

If there be, what are their names?

I find Hackford manor mentioned but take it to be only the manor of Hackford in West Herling that extended hither.

Was the reverend Moses Leake instituted in 1726 or 1727? [in 1726]

How many dwelling houses now or as near as you can? [30]

I find this note at to synodals Nulla hic sunt sinodolia does it pay any now? [Nulla procur:- I think it now pays procs: yes.]

Do you know whither it be a crown lease now, or a grant in fee? [I cannot tell]

An answer by wrighting at the end of each question, and the return of this paper will much oblige your very humble servant & brother,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Endorsed by the recipient with the matter enclosed in square brackets.
2. No further correspondence.

262. James Paston to Francis Blomefield

(N.R.O., Frere MS. Earsham/Redenhall.)

For the Reverend Mr Francis Blomefield Rector of Fersfield. To be left at Mr Darby's an Apothecary in Diss.

Harleston January the 26 1737/8.

Sir,

I have on the other side sent a copy of the grant for the second fair held in this town, which is commonly called St Jones's

Fair. The first fair is held on Midsummer Day, the Nativity of <what> Saint *John Baptist* as the second is on his decollation but I never could see by what authority the first is held. I imagine our chapel is dedicated to the same saint, but that very probably you will find by ancient writings belonging to this place. If you think this worth your notice, I am very glad of it, who am, sir your very humble servant,
James Paston.¹

Mr Martin of Palgrave tells me you have my Spelmans Upton:² I desire great care may be taken of it, and that it may be sent by a safe hand when you return it.

1. No further correspondence.
2. Nicholas Upton, *De studio militari*, ed. by Henry Spelman (London, 1654).

263. Thomas Kirkpatrick to Francis Blomefield (open letter)
(Norwich Gazette 2 May 1741, No.1804.)

Norwich, April 28, 1741.

I have this day seen the Reverend Mr Francis Blomefield, Rector of Fersfield, his first number of his *History of the City and County of Norwich*, and am informed too, in order to gain a reputation to his undertaking, he has given out, that whatever occurs in the original collections of my late brother Mr John Kirkpatrick will be added to his history, &c. This will readily induce persons to think, that the said Mr Blomefield has my late brother's collections in his custody; and this doth therefore oblige me to acquaint the publick, that my brother's collections intire are in my hands only, and have been so ever since his decease; and that no person whatever, has transcribed one line from them since in my possession. But it must appear very absurd, that my brother should give away his collections to any person before his death, because he looked upon them to be valuable, and left them as such to me by his last will; and what relates to that part of his will, I think not improper to transcribe, viz. "I also give to my said brother Thomas Kirkpatrick, all my manuscripts, books, and papers (which I have with no small pains and expence collected and transcribed) relating to the History of Norwich, to injoy and publish the same, &c.," and further, I think it proper to inform the publick, that I am determined to have printed off (in a very short time) a specimen of

my brother's history, viz., of the Original, Rise, and Name of the City of Norwich, &c., and submit it to be compared with what the Reverend Mr Blomefield has published thereof, by which it will appear, who is possessed of the original collections above-mentioned, and also of the best materials for compiling a History of Norwich.

Thomas Kirkpatrick.¹

1. Reply Letter 264. John Kirkpatrick's manuscripts were never published by his brother.

264. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Kirkpatrick (open letter)

(Norwich Gazette 9 May 1741, No.1805.)

May 5, 1741.

Having seen an advertisement in the news-paper, relating to my History of Norwich,¹ I think it proper to acquaint my subscribers, that I am ready to produce to any one that will call at my house in Fersfield, whatever occurs concerning that city, either in the most valuable collections of the Right Reverend Dr Tanner, late Bishop of St Asaph, or in the curious collections of the late Mr Le Neve, Norroy, or of the late Mr John Kirkpatrick, who gave the original collections of his own hand-writing to the said Mr Le Neve, who then designed to publish The History of Norfolk; from all which collections, besides others of my own, and several friends, I have compiled my History of the City, and design to publish more than a specimen thereof, not doubting but the generosity of my subscribers (which in my last volume, I sufficiently experienced) will enable me to go through the whole, notwithstanding any attempts to hinder my so doing.

Francis Blomefield.²

N.B. Mr Kirkpatrick, as is usual, always collected in loose papers, which, when transcribed, he gave to Mr Le Neve, who in like manner gave what he collected concerning Norwich to Mr Kirkpatrick in exchange, after he had transcribed them into his own collections, and those original papers now remain with the collections of Mr Le Neve.

1. Letter 263.

2. No further correspondence.

265. Francis Blomefield to Richard Rawlinson

(Bodl. Libr., Rawlinson letters 114X f. 62.)

To Dr Rawlinson at London House in London.

Fersfield July 23d. 1741.

Good Sir,

I received yours¹ but last week of March 28. Else should not have been so long silent.

[There follow various notes relating to Boughton.]

When I go to Norwich which will not be till 5 or 6 weeks after Michaelmass will send the others. I will take *care* of your 2 mss and return them, but have so much on my hands that I have not yet done with them. I hope ere this you have received the 2d number of Norwich and shall go on as fast as <my> oppertunity will permitt. I am glad to see you go on with your collections & am ready to serve you in any thing that way. I am your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Not preserved.
2. No reply preserved.

266. Thomas Gallant to Francis Blomefield
(N.R.O., Frere MS South Erpingham/Tuttington.)

To the Reverend Mr Blomefield rector of Farsfield Norfolk.
Blickling October 19. 1742.
Sir,

If in your account of the great Tithes of Tuttington belonging to the Bishop of Ely you have any thing relating to a portion of the tithes payable thereto out of lands in Burro &c & will communicate the same to me you will highly oblige, sir, your brother & servant,
Thomas Gallant.¹

1. Reply Letter 267 below.

267. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Gallant
(N.R.O., Frere MS South Erpingham/Tuttington.)

Answerd December 2. 1742.¹

thomas Gallant Rector of Burgh by Aylesham & Blickling.

The tithes of the demeans of William de Glanvill were by him given to his monastery of Bromholm, to which Tuttington was appropriated, & fell to the crown, by Queen Elizabeth granted to Bishop of Ely, & what is paid from Burgh R[ecto]r[y] is a composition for the tithes of these demeans either to the bishop or his lessee.²

1. Reply to Letter 266.
2. No further correspondence.

268. Francis Blomefield to William Windham

(N.R.O., Felbrigg MS. WKC 7/65.)

To William Windham Esqr.
Norwich November 28. 1743.
Sir,

I have inclosed the 2 monuments of your ancestors,¹ which we spake of when I had the pleasure to see you last; had not the affairs of a distant relation that died some time since, obliged me to be absent from hence so long, I had sent them before. To each plate I have annexed plain directions for your engraver. Mr Jermy² tells me you are not willing to give me the plates themselves; to which I told him, if you should choose rather to give me 800 copies of each, I should be equally obliged; but if the plates themselves ever came to my hands, I could not lay myself under any obligation of returning them, not having as yet done it to any one. For the Judge's monument, I was out of nothing, it being an ancient drawing I had by me - the other cost me 5s only. I got a stone cutter to look on the Judge's monument as desired, & he says it may be fixed up to look decently at ten pounds. If you please to favour me with them, beg they may both be exactly of the bigness of the paper on which the Judge's monument is, that being fitted to my book. I am sir your most obliged humble servant to command,
Francis Blomefield.³

As the altar tomb will leave space sufficient for your own arms to be engraven in what manner you please, I beg leave to remind you, for your workman to insert the label of three points some where in chief.

1. Two drawings were included, one of the tomb of Francis Windham in St Peter Mancroft parish church Norwich, and the other of Sir Thomas Windham in Norwich Cathedral.
2. Presumably William Jermy of Bayfield.
3. No further correspondence. The illustrations were never completed.

269. John Soley to Francis Blomefield

(N.R.O., Duleep Singh Collection DS 595.)

To the Reverend Mr Francis Blomefield in Willow Lane in Norwich.
Long Stratton St Mary, April 10 1744.

Mr Blomefield,

There are many mistakes in your observations on Long Stratton St Mary.

1. Christopher Reve held Long Stratton St Mary united to Oulton in Suffolk of which the Judg was patron as well as of Stratton and dyed parson there as of Stratton August 14 1701. For that Reve which was Rector of Stratton St Michael was but cousin to Christopher and lived many years after the death of Christopher and his name was Charles.

2. I was presented and instituted (not in 1704) but in 1701.

3. The half acre copy of Forncet upon which a little house is built is not that part of the Gild Hall which I own, for myne is freehold paying yearly 1s free rent to Stratton, but it is a little cottage built on a small part of the Gild land and was purchased lately for a dwelling for the non con[formist] preacher upon the erecting a presbiterian meeting house in my parish about 20 yeare agoe <as> and is now possessed by one Georg Hobson who lives in it and is admitted to it, and my barn is the very hall that belonged to that gild.

Wacton.

There are many inscriptions and grave stones since your account and a monument at the east end of the chancel since your account, as also many sentences in the glass windows and a figure as large or larger than life on the north wall well painted which was lately discovered by some white paistering falling down so that it will be necessary for you to come over and take a dinner with me and look into the church, for your better information and satisfaction of your servant and brother,

John Soley¹

1. No reply preserved

270. William Knyvett to Francis Blomefield

(N.R.O., Frere MS. Depwade/Ashwellthorpe.)

To the Reverend Mr Blomfield in St Giles parish Norwich.

June the 1st 1744.

Reverend Sir,

I had waited upon you before this time if I could have had a letter from London. I sent (according to your directions) for a copy of late Lady Berner's will but it is not in any office there, but in Mrs Wilsons hand where it shall remayn a year and a day. Could be very glad if you would please to let me know when you go to Farsfield and I would wait upon you there with Mr Martin. I am sir your most humble servant,
William Knyvett.¹

Sir I shall be glad to see you at my house as you go to Farsfield.

1. No reply preserved, see Letter 271.

271. William Knyvett to Francis Blomefield

(N.R.O., Frere MS. Depwade/Ashwellthorpe.)

To the Reverend Mr Blomefield Norwich.

October the 30th 1744.

Reverend Sir,

I was with Mr Martin last Fryday but have not yet received a copy of late Lady Berners will. Advise me to git what copys of wills I can, to begin with that will of Jane Knyvetts who was daughter of Lord Bouchier, and all others to Lady Berners. Please to let my son (the bearer hereof) to write that over. I am sir your most obedient humble servant,
William Knyvett.¹

Sir if you have any more wills of the Knyvetts please to let me know it.

1. No reply preserved, see Letter 272.

272. William Knyvett to Francis Blomefield

(N.R.O., Frere MS. Depwade/Ashwellthorpe.)

To the Reverend Mr Blomefield att Norwich.

November the 10th 1744.

Reverend Sir,

I received your kind letter¹ by my son and he tells me if I sent to day you would send me some copys of wills. Please to send them by Mr Rogers there bearer hereof and it *will* greatly oblige sir your most obedient humble servant,
William Knyvett.²

I had waitd upon you my self but am obliged to go to Methwold.

1. Not preserved, presumably a reply to Letter 272.

2. No further correspondence.

273. Francis Blomefield to William Cole

(B.L., Addl MS. 6400 f. 170.)

For the Reverend Mr Cole at Kings College Cambridge.

Norwich, August 5. 1745.

Reverend Sir,

Multiplicity of affairs at my return hindered me from making due acknowledgement of the favours received from you when at Cambridge, for which I return my hearty thanks, and should be glad to see you here at any time. I am now cheifly at Fersfield, which lies just a days easie journey from Norwich, so that if you called on me there, I should be glad of it. I had 2 Latimers sermons,¹ both which I pulled in peices in order to perfect one for you, which I have done as far as I could but not altogether.

I have so much time taken up by my present country affairs that I make but a poor progress in the Camb[ridgeshire] monuments.² I have finished 2 or 3 sheets, would beg to know how far your printed copy is perfect that I may send you up the whole to compleat it as far as I have gone, and that you would transcribe all the errata, that are marked there for me, & then I would send up the copy to you beforehand for the future.

I find my subscribers for my last vol.³ begin to come *in*, & hope by Xmas next to publish my plan & begin that volume.

Among Bishop Moore's books there is a mss heretofore a leiger of the Nunnery of St George in Thetford.⁴ Could you

find it out? for I much want a transcript of an old evidence that is registered there. I will finish your mss⁵ as soon as I can & return it safe. We have had here a sale of books this week, in which I got some good old things, there remain 2 vols of Holingshed's Cronicle,⁶ well bound & fair except the title page of vol. II. & a leaf at the end of the index. I shall be extreme glad of a line or 2 from you, & in the meantime am your most obliged humble servant, Francis Blomefield.⁷

1. Hugh Latimer, *Sermons preached by Maister Hugh Latimer* (London, 1562).
2. Reference to the compilation of *Collectanea Cantabrigiensia*.
3. That is volume iii of the *History of Norfolk*.
4. Unidentified.
5. Cole's copy of Blomefield's *Collectanea Cantabrigiensia* (B.L., G.3610) contains this note 'This work was taken from the 6th Vol: of my Camsh: collections which I lent to Mr Blomefield . . .'
6. Ralph Holinshed, *The Chronicle of Englande, Scotlande, and Irelande* (London, 1577).
7. No reply preserved, see Letter 271.

274. Joseph Ames to Francis Blomefield

(Published in *A Booke of the Foundacion and antiquitye of Great Yarmouth*, ed. Charles Palmer, (Great Yarmouth, 1847), pp.120-2.)

To the Reverend Mr Blomfeild, at his house in Norwich, Norfolk.
Thursday, 12th September, 1745, London, near the Hermitage.
Good Sir,

I should have been very glad if your affairs would have permitted you to have stayed longer in town, when you was with us last, for then I promised myself that I should have had a visset from you, and so have looked over my collection together, in order to have found out what might be suitable for your present purpose. I remember you desired to know what prints we had of our societies relating to the county of Norfolk,¹ this might be done by looking over our table published; but lest you should not have it, I have set down

The ruins of Walsingham Priory, Norfolk. No.viii.

Three views of St Bennett's Gate; and No. xiii. xiiii.

The tomb of Robart Colles at Folsham. No.xv.

These, I think, are all our Society have published of that county. You know, and I suppose have, all that has been published by the *Bucks*,² in their views of old buildings, &c. I spoke to you of the old city of Norwich, done by my printer, John Day, 1559;³ and the views of Great Yarmouth, done lately, which you have, &c.⁴ There was a sheet printed by Daniel King,⁵ with a design to illustrate *Cambden's Britannia*, of very small views; among them you will may find *Oldwell, in Norfolk*, (perhaps for *Outwell*.) This seems a large old church. *Castle Acre, in Norfolk*, this only ruins; but perhaps this may be put into some edit[ion] of Cambden which you have.

I have a vissitation book for that county, among others, done by Smyth Norroy, before 1600,⁶ but the arms are poorly ticked; had been P. Le Neve's. Also I have a ms. of the names and the valuations of their estates per annum, who were thought fitt and qualified to be made knights of the Royal Oak, now printed in the 5 volumes of the *Barronets of England*, 8vo 1741.⁷ The names of those in that county, if thought needful, shall be transcribed for you.

I have some small notes of my own father's, who was a master of several ships, and dwelt at Yarmouth, relating to that town; but now looking them over, I find nothing very material but what may commonly be found in Cambden, or book of the Cinque Ports,⁸ so have not transcribed them for you. His father or my grandfather was captain of several men of war, in the service of the Parliament of England, and who, in the year 1653, presented him with a gold chain and medal for his services with Admiral Blake, and so continued to the Happy Return of King Charles, which ship he commanded, and afterwards was so called (Happy Return). My grandfather then left off the sea, and set up brewer at Yarmouth. One of the gates, in honour to him, is called Ames' Gate to this day. His father's name was John Ames, who died the seventeenth of April, 1647, aged 70 years, baptized the third of March, in St Peter's Parish, Norwich. His father's name was *Lancelot Ames*. Sometime I have observed they spelt the sir-name *Amyas*. I ask your pardon in being so free to write to you of my own family, but you know it is natural to enquire concerning what so nearly relates to one, so praying that if anything of this family, worthy remembrance, you'll be so free to communicate it to me.

I am obliged by the note sent me by Mr Vertue,⁹ of Anthony Solen or Solmpne, printing at Norwich, 1570, and having his

freedom given him, from your book, vol.2, p.210; but as I am writing of printing in England only to the year 1600,¹⁰ if any other printer should appear to you, or any other passage relating to him, it would much oblige me. Perhaps from the City Books of Freedoms or Registers, &c, you may know whether he had any family, partner, or apprentice, or how long he continued, and what books he printed. I have only an account of some verses he printed of *Thomas Brook's*, before he was executed on the thirtieth of August, at Norwich, 1570,¹¹ and this is the only piece I have at that place, therefore I believe you yourself will think it fitt; and if you please with my humble service to Mr Thomas Martin, I dare think he will assist you in it what he can, wh'oes favours I have already experienced. Now sir, I desire you will excuse the tediousness of this letter, and accept the hearty wish of your friend for your health and happiness, is all at present from, your most humble servant at command,
Joseph Ames.¹²

P.S. Mr Vertue gives his service.

1. The Society of Antiquaries.
2. Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, *Antiquities, or Venerable remains of above 400 castles &c.* (3 vols., London, 1727-40).
3. William Cunningham, *Cosmographical glasse* (London, 1559).
4. Probably one of the views of Yarmouth engraved by James Corbridge c.1727.
5. Daniel King (d.1664) engraver and antiquary.
6. Not traced. The only Visitations of Norfolk recorded by the College of Arms were Harvey in 1563 and Cooke in 1589. There was no Smyth Norroy.
7. Thomas Wotton, *The English baronetage* (5 vols., London, 1741).
8. *Charters of the Cinque Ports* (London, 1728).
9. George Vertue (1684-1756), engraver and antiquary.
10. Joseph Ames, *Typographical antiquities* (London, 1749).
11. Thomas Brooke, *Certayn versis* (Norwich, 1570).
12. No further correspondence.

275 Francis Blomefield to William Cole
(B.L., Additional MS. 6400 f. 168.)

Norwich March 10. 1745[/6]
To the Reverend Mr William Cole at Kings College in Cambridge.
Reverend Sir,

My long silence might reasonably want excuse, had I only one thing to plead for my great neglect, but hope, when I tell you that illness in part, multiplicity of unexpected events in part, and the earnest desire I had, not to omit any thing material to my design, out of your judicious and laborious collection, in part, occasioned my not returning either an answer to your kind letter,¹ or your volume,² before now, but hope they will both come safe to hand. Believe me, sir, I heartily wish you will not follow my example, in being so long answering this, as I have been yours, for nothing can be more gratefull, than to hear from a friend so near my own way of thinking as you are.

I am sorry to find those valuable mss of Bishop Moore's are not set up in a regular way, with a compleat catalogue,³ if they were, I am apt to think there would be more curious persons enquiring after them, than after all the printed books already digested.

I herewith send you a copy so far as I have gone of the *Collectanea Cantabrigiensia*. I design to add the pages wanting at the beginning, & earnestly intreat that as I may want several things in the colleges, chapels, churches, &c in Cambridge, you would be so kind as to supply them for me as soon as possible, because I would finish & publish this vol. directly in my way up to London in the summer. I have all Trinity Hall & Ben[net]t⁴ perfect from you, except the present masters names & arms, which I want, pray mark in all errors &c. I shall be cautious to observe no thing, that is any *private* remark, as desired.

I wish I could have had the pleasure of seeing you at Norwich, but hope the approaching summer may afford me that satisfaction which the last did not. My map is now near finished, Mr Vertue hath the 2d revise.⁵ I will get a 1st no. of next volume, fit to deliver together. I hope when I come to Cambridge to get a little time to stay & look for the leiger.⁶ I should be glad also when I come there to see any thing of our own diocess, & in particular Jeggon's Repertorium,⁷ the fowl copy of which fell into my hands, but suspect it to be a small part only, & those you mention of Bury Abby I could also like to peruse, having *seen* many of the original registers, which I have seen, in Sir Edmund Bacon's, Lord Cornwaleis's & other gentlemens hands.⁸

I am in doubt whither or no to fill up the first pages to fo.29. with the monuments in Ely Cathedral.⁹ But as Willis, Le Neve, & others¹⁰ have printed most of them, am apt to imagine that those in some other of the parochial churches, unpublished,

may be as acceptable, should be glad of your thoughts on this head. If you have any *Addenda* to those churches I have already printed, by all means favour me with them. I hope ere long to hear from you, assuring you nothing will be more acceptable than a line or two. I am your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.¹¹

1. Not preserved.
2. Cole's manuscript collections for Cambridgeshire, used by Blomefield, are preserved in the British Library (Addl. MS. 5803-5).
3. Bishop John Moore's library was presented to Cambridge University by King George I.
4. Bennett College was the early name for Corpus Christi.
5. Engraving 23, engraved by George Vertue.
6. The ledger of the nunnery of St George, Thetford, see Letter 273.
7. John Jegon, Bishop of Norwich 1603-18.
8. Sir Edmund Bacon of Garboldisham, and Charles, 1st Earl Cornwallis of Brome, owned a number of the early registers of Bury Abbey.
9. Browne Willis, *A Survey of the Cathedrals* (3 vols., London, 1727-30) and John Le Neve, *Monumenta Anglicana* (5 vols., London, 1717-9).
10. Blomefield originally intended to publish a work of miscellaneous antiquities entitled *Collectanea* but he subsequently cancelled the first 28 pages and changed the name to *Collectanea Cantabrigiensia*.
11. No reply preserved, see Letter 277.

276. Francis Blomefield to William Perry

(Kent R.O., De L'Isle MS U1475 c216/1.)

Norwich June 25. 1746.

Sir,

I received yours,¹ & will wait upon you, as soon as possible. All my collections are in the country, other than those of the hundred now printing, but will look up & see what I can before I come. I am sir your most humble servant to command,
Francis Blomefield.²

1. Not preserved.
2. No reply preserved.

277. Francis Blomefield to William Cole

(B.L., Addl. MS 6400 f. 171.)

Norwich. January 14. 1746[/7].

To the Reverend Mr Cole at King's College, Cambridge.

Reverend Sir,

I desired my couzin Young¹ of Caius College to wait upon you before he came down, who brought me word, you was not in Cambridge. It was to beg that what addenda you had to the several colleges, you would be so good as to communicate, because I have near finished the Collectanea, and also to inform me of all necessary corrections which you had observed, for which I should be very thankfull, as soon as possible.

I have at last published my first number of my third volume of my History of Norfolk, and also the plan of Norwich to be prefixed to the 2d vol.,² it needs no references, they being in the book; but for such as have not the book, or choose it as a picture, I have added references, & doubled the price, those for the vols being only 2s 6d & those for the pictures, 5s. I hope you will favour me with your recommendation & interest in the affair. I have sent them to Mr Thurlbourn, & ordered them to be advertised in the Cambridge paper.

I should be very glad if your leizure would permit you to examine the Collectanea soon, because I have workmen now, that I could finish it out of hand.

My service attend your self and all friends, & should be glad of the honour of a line or two from you, ere long. I am your most obliged humble servant to command,
Francis Blomefield.³

1. Thomas Young of Caius College.

2. Engraving 23.

3. No reply preserved, see Letter 279.

278. John Soley to Francis Blomefield

(N.R.O., Duleep Singh Collection DS 595.)

Long Stratton <Feb> *March* 4th 1746.

Sir

I have sent an account of all I know of my parishes in your way so far as I can remember. If I can be further serviceable you

may freely lay your commands upon your friend and brother,
John Soley

Remember to send the 2d number.¹

1. No further correspondence.

279. Francis Blomefield to William Cole
(B.L., Addl. MS. 6400 f. 173.)

To the Reverend Mr William Cole, Fellow Commoner of King's
College, Cambridge.

Fersfield February 18. 1747[/8].

Reverend Sir,

Your kind letter of January 9.¹ I received at my return
hither, having been out for 5 or 6 weeks, visiting my old
acquaintance in Norfolk, and in my ramble have hapened of several
old mss, books, Roman coins & other antiquities which much
please me.

I met with a letter also, from that worthy antiquary Browne
Willis esquire,² whom I suppose ere long you will meet in London. I
hope you will find a week or two this summer to see Norwich, no
one shall be more welcome at my house there than your self,
having a spare bed at all times for a friend, & let me know but 2 or
3 weeks before, & I will be certain to be at home. I hope to see
Cambridge & when I can fix my time will let you know beforehand,
that I may not miss of your good company there. I shall be much
pleased to see the Castleacre seal. I have the abby seal & that like
yours which is the Sigillum ad Causas, but mine is broken. Should
also be glad to see Angleseye seal.

I shall <[illegible]> *like* to see if I can happen of the
Thetford leiger among Bishop Moor's mss & as I find they are in no
order shall be glad to have assistance to help to look for it.³ The
dog in the fable, is too much like many publick societies, who will
neither use their mss themselves, if they can, nor yet permit others
that would do it, if they can not. No statute can be surely so foolish
as to command such things to stand useless - if they do - all such
should be annihilated. But I fear that those that pretend such
strictness in that point are as remiss in following their statutes
strictly, in many other points of much greater consequence to the
public good, as well as the private. Eton College hath no such

statute, that society hath fixed up their evidences well, & the substance of them as to antiquity, is well known to those that deal that way.

I design to fix up my Collectanea & publish it about Michaelmas. I am pleased to hear you have got so many good materials lately. I saw a good many old things of Merch [sic] in Cambridgeshire in my late round. I have not been at Norwich near half a year because of the smallpox being all round me, but hope to hasten on with Norfolk, when I come thither again, which I hope now will be shortly, that distemper much abating. Pray accept my compliments your self & tender them to all friends and acquaintance, which doing will add to the many obligations already laid upon your most obliged brother & humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

1. Not preserved.
2. Not preserved.
3. See Letter 275, note 3.
4. No reply preserved, see Letter 280.

280. Francis Blomefield to William Cole
(B.L., Additional MS. 6400 f. 175)

For the Reverend Mr Cole at King's College in Cambridge.
Norwich August 13. 1748:
Good Sir,

I hope this will find you & Mr Masters¹ safely arrived at Cambridge, for whom I have inclosed the deed he forgot & left here & a letter from Mr Earl,² which knowing what it concerned I opened & as I go to Holt tomorrow after service design to call on him at Heydon & answer it for you in person. I have packed up your books safe & sent them to the Bury wagon's warehouse, which don't come out till next Tuesday. I have been today overlooking some of the old books bought, 15 at 6d each, among which Melchior Adams 3 vols fair, the 1. the lives of all the German philosophers, the 2d of all the phisitians, the 3d of lawyers & political writers, had I found the IV of divines, it had been a good prize.³ I have not looked over a fourth part. I hope for a pleasant tour next week, designing to make 3 or 4 days. As soon as I can, will fitt up a copy of Collectanea when I know what you want, with thanks for your good company & compliments to self & all

friends, I am your most obliged humble servant to command,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

1. Robert Masters (1713-98) of Corpus Christi College.
2. Augustine Earl, subscriber of an engraving published in volume 3.
3. Melchior Adamus, *Vita Germanorum philosophorum* (Heidelberg, 1615), *Vitae Germanorum medicorum* (Heidelberg, 1620), *Vita Germanorum jureconsultorum* (Heidelberg, 1620), *Vitae Germanorum theologorum* (Heidelberg, 1620).
4. No reply preserved, see Letter 281.

281. Francis Blomefield to William Cole

(B.L., Additional MS 6400 f. 176.)

For the Reverend Mr Cole at King's College Cambridge.
Norwich. September 18. 1748.

Dear Sir,

I received your 2 kind letters,¹ & had answered the former had not I been out when it came. I shall be obliged for the translation of the Greek Liturgy, my Greek one having none with it. The volume you mention of Melchior Adam's work² is the very volume I have not, having those of the lawyers, philosophers & phisicians, but not of divines. I bought for myself about 50 volumes, & many more for others, & made it worth while going over. Among my own was Kennet,³ which I got for 6s. I shall be very desirous of seeing the Norfolk Swan Roll,⁴ & therefore be so good as to send me them in a parcel by the Cambridge Carrier, directed for me here.

I was indebted to Mr Willis on the same account as your self but have paid it yesterday. Am glad to hear Mr Burrough & all friends are well. Pray what antiquary Mr North is that you mention?⁵ I am always for searching out for brethren of the quill!

I don't know how I shall go on but would finish my Collectanea so as to bring them with me to Cambridge between Christmas & Candlemass if I could. Our present bishop⁶ delights our way, & is much mended in his health by our Norfolk air. Pray my thanks to Mr Masters for his kind present to perfect Archbishop Parker's mss. Mr Parkyn of Oxburgh a fellow antiquary hath been with me this week, which we have spent agreeably with the bishop, chancellor, & others of our stamp.

I am going tomorrow to a sale of curiosities collected by a

Baker here, who is dead. I am told there are many coins, pictures, glasses, & natural curiosities. I should be glad to see you here at any time, to make a longer stay with us, than when I saw you last. Our service attend your self & all friends. I am dear sir, your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁷

1. Not preserved.
2. See Letter 280 note 3.
3. One of the works of Bishop White Kennett.
4. Possibly BL., Addl. MS. 40072, a swan roll for Norfolk and Suffolk.
5. Probably George North (1710-1772) of Corpus Christi College.
6. Thomas Gooch.
7. No reply preserved, see Letter 282.

282. Francis Blomefield to William Cole
(B.L., Additional MS. 6400 f. 177.)

To the Reverend Mr Cole at King's College in Cambridge.
Norwich October 20. 1748.
Reverend Sir,

I returned hither last Saturday and found your kind letter & parcel,¹ for which I return you my hearty thanks. Melchior's volume matches mine very well, & the Liturgy adds to my large collection that way, having been very desirous of getting the service books of all nations as far as I possibly can. The Swan Roll² as it concerns our county & the several owners of the manors that have that right, is to me a great curiosity, & if not too troublesome wish you could procure it me, & should be willing to part with any thing in exchange. I am much pleased with the arms you sent, if you have any friends more that have their arms engraved, should be glad of one of each to add to my collection of modern arms. I have some business at London, so that nothing but ill health will hinder me from being there next February, & am determined to spend a week at Cambridge either in my way thither or return, & will endeavour to get my Collectanea ready against that time, would begg of you to examine & acquaint me with the errata you observe in it, as soon as you can, & if you have not the whole printed, let me know it, that I may send it compleat with my next number. I mislaid yours in which that account is of what you want to

compleat it. I would beg also a copy of the burial of Thomas Sclater Bart, who was buried in Trinity College Chapel anno 1684.

[There follows a brief family tree of the Heveningham/ Pichford families]

Be so good as to search Trumpington Register for the Pitchfords or Pichfords, I exceedingly want - A marriage of John Pitchford with Elizabeth Present widow (she was widow to Present, which marriage I should be glad of, & was sister to Sir Thomas Sclater) between 1640 & 1679 - Present's marriage is between 1630 & 1679. The birth of John son of John Pitchford & Elizabeth his wife, between 1649 & 1679 & his burial between the same time. Whatever you meet with of the Pitchford's or Sclater's I should be thankfull for. If you have an account of Cotenham church, I should be glad of the monuments there.

I heard from Mr Willis last week & design him a letter this,³ any thing that you think worth printing in the Collectanea, if at your leisure you would send, I should be thankfull for. I write a letter of thanks to Mr Masters so omit mentioning him any further. My compliments to all friends in general. I am sir your most obliged humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

1. Not preserved. The parcel included the volumes mentioned in Letter 281.
2. See Letter 281 note 4.
3. Not preserved.
4. No reply preserved, see Letter 279.

283. Francis Blomefield to Sir Thomas Le Strange

(Collection of Mr B. Hall, Banningham, Norfolk.)

To Sir Thomas Le Strange Bart. at Hunstanton Norfolk.

Norwich October 31. 1748.

Sir!

I received the notes concerning the Le Strange Family,¹ which I will, as soon as I have opportunity, compare with the numerous papers & extracts that I have of the family, & see how they agree. As it will take me some time, & I am obliged to go this week into Suffolk, for 3 weeks or a month, I am obliged to defer it 'till my return, & then will not omitt doing it & acquainting you of

it.

Mr Addey² mentioned to me as if you would be so kind as to favour me with a copper plate of the antique brass in Hunstanton church, which would be an ornament to my work for which I should think myself exceedingly obliged;³ I design to put together the various notes by me & draw up the Hunstanton branch accordingly, & send then for your inspection & correction. In the mean time am your humble servant to command,
Francis Blomefield.⁴

1. Not preserved.

2. Robert Addey of North Walsham.

3. The engraving was not produced.

4. Endorsed, presumably by the recipient -

'November 15th. Receipt included for Mr Addy by my brother's wagon. No further correspondence.'

284. Francis Blomefield to William Cole

(B.L., Addl. MS. 6400 f. 174.)

To the Reverend Mr Cole at King's College in Cambridge.

Norwich, March 22 1748[/9].

Reverend Sir,

I have been so ill since I returned from London, that I could not 'till now make a proper acknowledgement of the reception of your kind letter,¹ which made me at once lay aside all thoughts of coming down by Cambridge, the smallpox being the only thing that makes me keep from London so much. I meet our friend Mr Willis, who did not seem pleased with the Society² for making an addition of 20 to their number.

By <him> him I could learn, as if you was about entering into the matrimonial state, a work I always like to hear going forward, & if so, wish you the utmost prosperity & success that *can* happen to man, & find you don't want courage, to attaque even a whole camp. I heartily return my thanks for your kind invitation, & hope you will be so good, as I can't come your way, to come ours & spend a week or 2 with me at Norwich. I will at any time meet you at Thetford, in the way & so take Fersfield in our way to Norwich & from thence visit the grand collections of Mr Martin at Palgrave, than which, I am sensible nothing could give you greater pleasure, except the lady aforesaid.

I made but few purchases in London, & have nothing among them of great curiosity. The curiosi of all sorts increase there so fast, that there's nothing to be got but at a vast price. I was at some picture auctions & could not but think the world running *mad* when I saw a very small windmill on board sold at about 7li & a watermill of the same size at 9li & a game peice only at 81 guineas, & as to prints such trumperie sold in lots, for no little money as I would not have brought home with me, if I had paid only their carriage.

I imagine you will attend the installation of your Chancellor & suppose the whole university make great preparation in dress & proper furniture, for so grand an occasion.³ We are here at rest & quiet, our journeymen dyers &c that lately seemd ready to rise being now more easy. I just now received a letter from Mr Earle,⁴ & am glad to hear he is well. Pray make my compliments for me to Mr Masters, Burrough, & all friends, & accept them your self, from your most obliged servant & now double brother,
Francis Blomefield.⁵

1. Not preserved.
2. The Society of Antiquaries.
3. Sir Thomas Pelham-Holles, Duke of Newcastle. Blomefield's *Collectanea Cantabrigiensia* was later dedicated to him.
4. See Letter 280 note 2.
5. No reply preserved, see Letter 287.

285. Thomas Trye to Francis Blomefield

(B.L., Addl. MS. 39848 f. 353.)

To the Reverend Mr Blomefield in his house in St Giles in Norwich.¹

London. June 1749 Wednesday.

Mr Blomefield,

Mr Oldys the writer of the *Biographica Britannia*² & whom you intended to see when you was in town has been with me to desire the favour of you to give him an answer to the particulars of the other side which are his writing.³ He knows you are about publishing the life but does not desire any thing may anticipate or the least prejudice that design, he thinks rather it will be a publication of it & will acknowledge the helps received by quoteing from whom he had it and advertiseing the publick that such a work is intended to be published. I would not refuse him this request to write to you about it. I am sir your humble servant,
Thomas Trye.⁴

1. Endorsed 'P free T. Trye'.

2. William Oldys, who contributed twenty-two articles to the *Biographia Britannica* (6 vols., London, 1747-60).

3. Not preserved. These related to the life of Sir John Fastolf.

4. Reply to Trye, Letter 286, see also Letter 289 to Oldys.

286. Francis Blomefield to Thomas Trye

(B.L., Additional MS. 39848 f. 353.)

June 14, 1749. Linn

Wrote to Mr Trye¹ - to send 2 bills not one - one of 50li one of 25li bank - in part of Mrs Butolphs divid[en]ds at Lady 1749 to meet me at Norwich on Midsummer day - for she expected me a week sent home - & she will want them - a large account when I get home - & answer to Mr Oldys.²

1. Reply to Letter 285.

2. Letter 289, to William Oldys. No further correspondence.

287. Francis Blomefield to William Cole

(B.L., Additional MS. 6400 f. 179)

To the Reverend Mr Cole Fellow Commoner of Kings College Cambridge.

Lynn, June 13 1749.

Dear Sir,

I am here in my spring tour, & finding so much company to be at Cambridge against the first of July, the Installation of your Chancellor, would willingly spend a week at Cambridge at that time, but hearing the smallpox is there, should take it as a favour you would give me a letter to my house at Norwich, to inform me, whither it be much in the town & whither in any of the colleges & which & I shall take it as a great favour. I find Mr Earl comes down, having a letter from him & if there was not too much danger should be glad of the opportunity of seeing my friends. I am dear sir, your most obliged friend & brother,
Francis Blomefield.¹

1. No reply preserved, but see Letter 288.

288. Francis Blomefield to William Cole

(B.L., Additional MS. 6400 f. 180)

To the Reverend Mr Cole at King's College Cambridge.

Norwich. June 27. 1749.

Dear Sir,

I am extremely obliged for your kind letter,¹ but the case being not quite clear as to the smallpox, I have determined not to venture yet to Cambridge, tho' nothing would have been more agreeable than to have met my friends at this publick time. But as I am debarred the pleasure of seeing, hope you will, when things are over, favour with a line or two, to let me hear at least how things went. I am glad to hear of your late good design, may it go on & prosper. I don't doubt but it will be as much for the honour of Cambridge to have such a work published, as Mr Wood's is for that of Oxford.² If any quae[ries]s occur that I can be serviceable in, I hope you conclude you may always command me.

I have not laid aside Fastolph's life, & have near finished the volume of Collectanea Cantabrigiensia, & intend when ever I

find it absolutely safe to come up to bring it with me. It will be 5s in sheets only. I think your contingency for a new college is a good chance, & I hear Wortley³ hath left a legacy to our college. I wish he may have thought of his own brother's children, who live here & want bread. If he hath not, I should be inclined to think very severely of him & his charity, especially as he was informed & well knew the poverty & distress of his own household. Pray my service to all friends, Mr Earle⁴ in particular, whom I shall write to when this busy time is over with you. I have this week sent up no.12 & have now gotten a workman to my mind so that I shall go on briskly. My service to Mr Masters, but I do not know any thing I have of his by me. I should be very glad to see you here this summer, for nobody would be more welcome than your self, to your most obliged friend & servant,
Francis Blomefield.⁵

1. Not preserved.
2. Anthony A Wood, *Athenae Oxonienses* (2 vols., London, 1691-2).
3. Bartholomew Wortley (1671-1749). Rector of Bratton Fleming, Devon.
4. See Letter 280 note 2.
5. No reply preserved.

289. Francis Blomefield to William Oldys

(B.L., Additional MS. 39848 f. 352.)

Mr Oldys the writer of Biographica Britannia - 7 June 1749.

To Mr Oldys to be left at Mr Tryes

Norwich September 29.1749.¹

Sir,

In answer to your's, relating to Sir John Falstolff² <I find that he was born> I find he died in 1459 that *in* <the year> 1440 he returned from France & settled in his native country that he died issueless, that he had "exercised wars in France, Normandy, Angeoye, & in Mayne, as in Gyen, having under the king my soverigne lorde officees, & governaunces of countrees & places, as of castells, fortracis, citees & townes be xxx yeer & more continyuid." So that he was first employed abroad by Henry IV, he was born in Edward III time <fo> in 1459 he says of himself that he was "in good remembrance albeit I am gretly vexid with sikenesse & thugh age infebelyd". He was son of John Fastolff of Yarmouth

in Norfolk esquire, by dame Mary daughter of Nicholas Park esquire, Sir John married Milcent daughter of Sir Robert Tibtot knight, he is buried in a *south* chapel of his own building at the Abby church of St Bennet in the Holm in Norfolk, which was ruined at the Dissolution. He was trained up under the Norfolk family, & John Mowbray Duke of Norfolk was one of his feoffees. I have many letters of his herald, William Botoner, Botoner was his family name, I make no doubt of Worcester, for he often <calls> is called Will[ielm]is Botoner de Wyrcestre.

I had no oppertunity to answer you before otherwise would have done it with pleasure, being always willing to communicate to any gentlemen in our way. I am sir yours to command,
Francis Blomefield.³

N.B. I design the life of this great man having great materials for it.

1. Both dates appear on the letter.
2. See Letter 285.
3. No further correspondence.

290. Francis Blomefield (and others) to Joseph Thomson
(N.R.O., Fersfield Parish Records)

This relating to the parish of Fersfield and Brissingham.
The copy of Mr Blomefield's letter to Mr Thomson.
To Mr Joseph Thomson at Blyford in Suffolk.
May 2d 1751
Sir,

Whereas there is due to each of our parishes of Fersfield & Brissingham in Norfolk, the sum of two pounds & fifteen shillings, for two years & three quarters pay, due June 22d last, to the said parishes, out of your estate, late Mr Mathew Walter's (which you purchased of Mr Crowfoot of Beccles according to the will of the said Mathew now in the parish church of Fersfield); which sum you have (as Mr Crowfoot in the year 1712 did) refuse to pay, without deducting taxes, for which he was put to considerable expense, which he was obliged to pay. This comes to acquaint you, that it then appeared that the estate being charged so long ago as 1589, by his will when the taxes were settled about 1692. The estate of

yours, which paid ten pounds per annum to charitable uses, was not then assessed for this ten pounds, as certified by the officers then in office, & the remainder or overplus of the estate, was taxed at 13li only, as the parish officers certified also in 1710.

This we thought proper to acquaint you with for peace sake, and if you charge any of the towns deduction of taxes, you do them wrong, for you pay nowe your self for that ten pounds per annum so given. If therefore you please to pay the sums due <given> without any further trouble we shall thank you; but if not, we are determined forthwith to proceed as we did before, & to advertise the severall payments of the towns in the Ipswich paper, that any of them that will joyne with us to do themselves right may have an opportunity of so doing, & for the future, we will have our own payments, annually at midsummer, it being due every year on 22d of June, the day that Margaret Walter, widow of the said Mathew Walter, was buried at Blyford (as a certificate from that register shews). We are your humble servants,

Francis Blomefield rector of Fersfield¹

John Algar)

Natha[niel] Mayhew) Church-wardens.

Brissingham

Rector of <Brissingham>

Churchwardens

1. This copy is in Blomefield's handwriting; the original was signed by the rectors and churchwardens of Fersfield and Bressingham. No further correspondence.

291. Francis Blomefield to William Cole

(B.L., Additional MS. 6400 f. 182.)

To the Reverend Mr Cole at King's College in Cambridge.

London November 26. 1751

Reverend Sir,

At my first coming hither my business came so quick upon me that I have seen nobody as yet, & till now, could not get time to trouble my friends with my scrawls. After returning thanks for all favours at Cambridge. I thought it right to acquaint you that I can't possibly go down to Dr Willis¹, not stir out of London, having a certain knowledge of a gentleman's coming out of the north to meet

me, but uncertain when! So that I am tied down here, but should be very glad to see you in your way to Whadon if you go. I must stay 'till summer, & a tour from Cambridge then may make it agreeable.

We have no news here, only I can load a waggon with books at 3d a pound, a new way of selling books, & really some very good ones among them, another hath 3000 pamphlets at 1/2 a peice so that learning hath weighed down its self.

I have not yet heard how matters go among the antiquaries,² but expect to be with them on Thursday night, their charter is compleated & read last Thursday & every member re-elected. I know not how they are to proceed, but there is much talk of their body of lawes to be framed, by which they are to publish as the Royal Society, this being one also now, his present Majesty being our founder & patron. If you have any commands in town, I hope you will command your most obliged humble servant, Francis Blomefield.³

If you can recommend my Collectanea to any friends I shall be much obliged.

1. Browne Willis
2. I.e. The Society of Antiquaries.
3. No further correspondence, Blomefield contracted small pox shortly after this was written.

292. Francis Blomefield to Unknown Recipient (Draft Letter)
(N.R.O., MC 44/27)

February 18 173-
Good Sir,

My cold being bad dare not venture out *to day* else had waited on you. If it be suitable intend to spend <Wedensday in the after / an> the afternoon with you either on Tuesday or Wedensday <which you please to> *or any day that will be most convenient <to>* <& will be agreeable>. If you please to let me by Mr Dawney¹ which day will be most agreeable you will much oblige your most obedient humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.

1. John Dawney Fellow of Caius. Apparently written whilst Blomefield was staying at Cambridge.

293. Undated pro forma letter from Blomefield to his subscribers

(N.R.O., Castle Museum Deposit T190A.)

Fersfield, 17

Sir,

Whereas I find your name among the gentlemen that have been so kind, as to favour me with their subscription, to my *Essay towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk*, and there having been Numbers already published, and yours not called for; this comes to beg the favour of you, to give directions to Mr. Bookseller in which way you will please to have him send them, or whether you have any place in that you will be so good, as to order them to be left at for you, and it will add to the favour already conferred upon your very humble servant,
Francis Blomefield.

P.S. If you don't like to continue them, please to inform Mr. that he may not lay by any more numbers for you.

294. Undated pro-forma letter/questionnaire

(N.R.O., Castle Museum Deposit T190A.)¹

Fersfield, 17

Sir,

Intending to publish an Essay towards a Topographical History of Norfolk, and being desirous to make it as compleat as possible; I hope you will be so good as to answer as many of the following queries as you can, and to promote the design with your interest; which will be very acceptable to, and always gratefully acknowledged by, Your most humble servant,
Francis Blomefield,
Rector of Fersfield in Norfolk.

- I. Are there any hamlets belonging to your parish? What are they called?
- II. What castles, manor houses or halls, are, or have been there? Who are the present owners? and what are they called?
- III. Are there any remarkable hills, woods, parks or bridges? What are their names?

IV. What markets or fairs are there? and on what days are they kept? To whom do they belong? When or to whom were they first granted?

V. What tumuli, Roman Stations, ways, pavements, encampments, trenches, walls, fields of battle, or the like, are still to be seen?

VI. What ancient coins, medals, pieces of armour, instruments of war, or other sorts, urns, &c have been found to dug up near you?

VII. How many manors are there in your parish? What are their names? How doth the stile or title of each court run? Who are now lords, and who were so formerly? What written accounts or memoirs do you know concerning them? What are the customs of each manor? Do they give dower? Is it a third or a half part? Do the copyhold descend to the eldest son, or next heir, according to the Common Law; or by Borough-English, to the youngest son, or in Gavel-kind? Are the fines certain, or at the Lord's will? If certain, how much an acre? Is the court lete annexed to the manor? If not, who keeps it? Can the tenants build up, pull down, and fell timber on the copyhold, and plant on the wastes, without the Lord's licence?

VIII. To what saint is your church dedicated? Is it a rectory, vicarage, curacy or donative? Who is now patron, and what families anciently were so? Who is now incumbent? Had you anciently any more churches or chapels than one? If more, where were they situate, and what remains are still left? How long have they been disused? Is your parish church still standing? If not, how long hath it been down? What are the synodals, procurations and pensions, paid out of the living? and to whom? What are the bishop's procurations, at every primary visitation?

IX. Is there a rectory or vicarage house? How many rooms on a floor? How many acres glebe? Hath the living a manor belonging to it? If it hath, what are the yearly quit-rents? Are there any customs confirmed under the Broad Seal, in relation to tithing? Hath your church any particular chapels, or appropriated burying places in it? What inscriptions or arms are on the bells, monuments, or grave-stones? What communion plate is there? and what arms and inscriptions thereon? What carvings on wood or stone, inscriptions, effigies of arms in the windows, were, or are now to be seen?

X. Was there any college, monastery, cell, nunnery, friery, or hermitage, in your parish? or were there any lands belonging to any such religious place? or are there any ruins of any such place still to be seen?

XI. Hath any college, company, or body corporate, any manors, lands or revenues there? If lands, what is the quantity, and of what value are they?

XII. What births, burials, or matters of note are found in your register? What eminent persons are reported to be born in the parish? What incumbents are found by the register to be buried in the parish, and when?

XIII. Were there any gilds, chantries or fraternities held in your church? Can you tell of any old registers or writings concerning them? By whom were they founded? and how were they endowed?

XIV. Is there any exempt jurisdictions either civil or ecclesiastical? How came they to be so? To whom do they belong? What are the privileges they claim?

XV. Is there a workhouse, charity or free-school? By whom founded? When erected? What is it endowed with? How many are there in it?

XVI. What gifts belong to the poor? when, and by whom given?

XVII. What town-lands or houses are there? By whom were they given, and to what use? How many acres do they contain? What is the present value? How are they now applied? Are they free or copyhold? What annual free-rent or quit-rent do they pay?

XVIII. How many commons are there belonging to the parish? What quantity of acres do each contain? Do they solely belong to your parish? If not, what parishes intercommon with you? What are the names of the commons?

XIX. What is your own coat of arms, crest and motto? Can you tell when or by whom it was granted? or do you use it by custom, as belonging to your ancestors?

XX. Are there any old deeds, manuscripts, registers, pedigrees, grants of arms, old rolls, paintings of any house, church, monument, ruins, &c or any other thing, that gives light to the history of any place in the county, in the possession of yourself, or any of your friends and acquaintance?

Sir,

These are the queries which I would beg of you to answer, and the larger it is, the greater the obligation it will bring upon me. I hope that my having already been, or my future coming to your parish, will be no hinderance to your answer; seeing after all that I can possibly do, many things will certainly escape me; which you, and other gentlemen (if they please) may easily furnish me with. I hope you will not confine your observations to your own parish,

but generously extend them as far as you can; whereby I shall think myself obliged to make a grateful mention of such assistances, in the prosecution of this design; which as it is a publick one, may I hope meet with such encouragement, as shall enable me to compleat the whole, as soon as the nature of the undertaking will admit; my design being to begin at midsummer next, and to continue it at a shilling a month, till the work be finished.

Please to direct your answer to be left with Mr Carlos, bookseller in Norwich; and if you meet with any that will subscribe, let them write their names at the bottom of it; and if any gentleman desires to have a prospect of his seat, or any other particular, he may either procure a draught for the plate, and pay down to the author the charge of engraving it, or leave both to him, which he will get done at reasonable rates.

N.B. The work is designed to be published in folio, in regard the copper-plates, which would be much injured, by being folded into a quarto edition.

1. Printed for Blomefield in 1735 by Thomas Goddard. The Journal and letter-book has 'An account of my printed letters laid out 1735' which lists circa 240 recipients (fols.155-60).

¹. F. Blomefield, *An essay towards the topographical history of the county of Norfolk* (5 vols. Fersfield, Norwich, Lynn, 1736-1775) - completed from page 672 of volume 3 by the Reverend Charles Parkin.

². Blomefield published his genealogy as a folded insert to his *History* (i. 74).

³. Fersfield Parish Register (Norfolk Record Office, PD 144/1) and T.L.M. Hawes, 'Genealogy of the Reverend Francis Blomefield', *Norfolk Archaeology*, xxxviii (1981), 59-66.

⁴. R.W. Ketton-Cremer, 'The Rector of Fersfield', *Norfolk Archaeology*, xxx (1952), 366.

⁵. J. Venn, *Caius College* (Cambridge, 1901), 156.

⁶. J. Venn, *Biographical History of Gonville and Caius College* (Cambridge, 1897).

⁷. Blomefield, i. 66.

⁸. Blomefield, i. 77.

9. The will of Henry Blomefield (N.R.O., Norfolk Archdeaconry Wills 128 f. 61).
10. J. Weever, *Ancient funerall monuments* (London, 1631). The earliest such notes to have survived relate to a week spent in September 1719 in the locality of Hunstanton (Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Gough Norfolk 4-5).
11. *Journal and letter-book* f. 11.
12. College of Arms, MS. SC9, the first of two volumes containing Blomefield's Suffolk church notes, and S.W. Rix, 'Cursory notices of the Reverend Francis Blomefield', *Norfolk Archaeology* II (1849), 201-24. Shortly after arriving at the University Blomefield compiled an index to church dedications that he knew in Norfolk and Suffolk in which there were more entries for Suffolk than Norfolk.
13. Blomefield's Cambridgeshire church notes were subsequently transcribed in two folio volumes (Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Norfolk 22 f. 171).
14. The Norfolk notes from this tour were transcribed into Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Norfolk 4 and subsequently published by C.S. Linnell as 'Some notes on the Blomefield MSS. in the Bodleian Library', *A miscellany* (Norfolk Record Society, xxii, 1951), 65-83. The corresponding notes for Suffolk were transcribed into College of Arms, MS SC10.
15. Venn, *Caius College*, pp.165-7. Blomefield either annotated or left his mark on many of the manuscripts which he transcribed, these are noted in M.R. James, *A descriptive catalogue of the manuscripts in the Library of Gonville and Caius College*, (3vols., Cambridge, 1907-14).
16. Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Norfolk 11 contains several such transcripts from 1725-6.
17. Bodl. Libr., MS. Gough Norfolk 22 f. 223.
18. This essay was subsequently lost but is mentioned by Blomefield in Letter 202.
19. See *D.N.B.* entry for Martin, and J. Fenn, 'Memoirs of the life of Thomas Martin', *Norfolk Archaeology*, xv (1904), 233-6.
20. The antiquary William Cole described Martin as 'a blunt, rough, honest downright man; of no behaviour or guile: often drunk in a morning with strong beer, and for breakfast, when others had tea or coffee, he had beef steaks, or other strong meat... His thirst after antiquities was as great as after liquors: the one injured his fortune, as the other did health.' B.L., Addl. MS. 5876 f. 88.
21. D. Douglas, *English scholars* (London, 1939), p.333.
22. Letter 239.
23. Letters 237-242.
24. Francis Blomefield, *Collectanea Cantabrigiensia* (Norwich, 1751).
25. Fersfield Parish Register.
26. In addition to the Rectory of Fersfield, Blomefield was instituted to the Rectory of Brockdish in 1739. He was also curate of Poringland Magna from 1736

until 1750, and during the 1740s held livings in the Norwich parishes of St James and St Mary Coslany for short periods.

27. For an account of Le Neve, see *D.N.B.* and the introduction to *The chorography of Suffolk*, ed. Diarmaid MacCulloch, (Suffolk Record Society, XIX, 1976), 1-4.

28. Richard Gough, *British Topography* (2 vols., London, 1780), ii. 2.

29. Christabel Hood, *The chorography of Norfolk*, (Norwich, 1938), introduction.

30. *D.N.B.* entry for Le Neve.

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Fenn, *ubi supra*, p. 239.

D.N.B. entry for Tanner.

³³. Letter 8, 22 Oct. 1733, and a letter from Tanner to Richard Rawlinson, 2 Oct. 1735 (Bodl. Libr., Rawlinson Letters 30 f. 31).

³⁴. Letter 8.